THE TIMES

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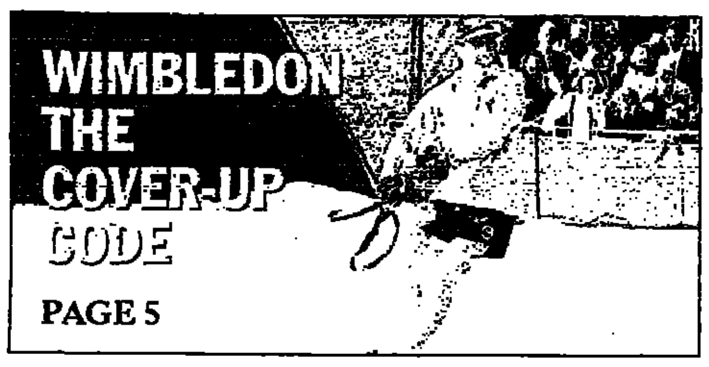
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BEST FOR JOBS

☐ Director......100K
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☐ Graduate......16K

2-SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Last chance to talk, Sinn Fein told

Blair issues ultimatum on IRA ceasefire

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR yesterday delivered an ultimatum to the IRA by announcing plans to start detailed talks on Northern Ireland's future in September — with or without Sinn Fein at the table.

The Prime Minister, desperate to revive the peace process, said he wanted the discussions over by May 1998, with any agreement being put to the people of Northern Ireland soon after in a referendum.

By announcing a tight and ambitious deadline Mr Blair was effectively telling the IRA it must declare a ceasefire by the end of next month to have any chance of boarding the "peace train".

The Government has already told Sinn Fein — in a document made public yesterday — that it would make a judgment about whether they qualified for peace talks six weeks after a ceasefire had been declared.

But fears that hardline IRA terrorists are trying to wreck Mr Blair's initiative increased as police yesterday foiled an early-morning attack on the RUC.

They recovered two fully-loaded AK47 assault rifles after armed terrorists took over a house in South Belfast. Security sources said that the IRA was planning to launch an attack on the heavily fortified RUC station at Woodburn.

Bill Stewart, the RUC's Assistant Chief Constable for Belfast, accused the terrorists of "murderous intent". The planned attack also raised speculation about a splinter group trying to stop the peace process.

Hours later in the Commons the Prime Minister declared: "The settlement train is leaving, with or without Sinn Fein. If they want to join, it is absolutely clear what they have to do. I have dealt straight with them. I expect straight dealing in return. We and the other parties will not be waiting around for them."

He said that after the murders of two RUC officers in Lurgan last week "the credibility gap the IRA and Sinn Fein have to bridge is wider than ever."

"Whatever Sinn Fein now say or do, I am determined to move on. It is essential to make political progress rapidly," he said.

Mr Blair, as expected, outined the new approach on decommissioning agreed with Dublin under which the IRA would give up arms during the negotiations.

Under the plan, which does not require the IRA to disarm before the talks, an independent commission would be set up to make proposals for disarming and monitor its implementation. A special committee within the talks process would be set up to consider the progress.

Mr Blair also published the note in which Sinn Fein were offered the prospect of a place in the talks six weeks after a ceasefire. It had been intended to put at rest fears that the Government might deliberately spin out the process.

But three days after it was sent the Lurgan killings, which Mr Blair believes were an attempt to sabotage the process, occurred.

By publishing the note of meetings between Sinn Fein and government officials on May 21 and May 28 Mr Blair intended to show that the Government has been seriously trying to make progress.

Addressing the issue of how long a ceasefire would have to run before Sinn Fein could join the talks, the note says: "We understand that an open-ended time period gives rise to accusations of bad faith. We are prepared therefore to remove any misunderstanding by saying the period of time for such a judgment is some six weeks.

"If an unequivocal ceasefire is in place by mid-June, and is satisfactory in word and deed, Sinn Fein would be invited to a plenary session of the negotiations by the end of July."

Yesterday's moves were intended to put fresh pressure on the IRA and Sinn Fein and to capitalise on the wave of revulsion in Britain, Ireland and the United States over the Lurgan killings.

William Hague, the Conservative Leader, pledged the continuation of the bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland. But he said there should be no question of substantive neogitations with Sinn Fein without "early" parallel decommissioning of arms.

☐ A man was charged last night with the murders of two RUC officers in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on June 16. Colin Duffy, 29, appeared at Craigavon Magistrates Court, Co Armagh. Duffy was remanded in custody pending a further hearing next month.

Charles Lysaght, page 22
Letters, page 23

Civil liberties row over plan to issue pupil ID numbers

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

EVERY child will be given a national identification number at the age of four, under Government plans announced yesterday to plot pupils' progress throughout their school career.

New central records will enable officials to track pupils from school to school to measure their progress — or "value added" — at each stage. But the plan sparked an immediate row with civil liberties campaigners, who said the system could open the door to national identity cards, which Labour opposed in opposition.

From next year, as well as giving examination results at 16 and 18, official national league tables will take account of pupils' success rates in earlier tests at seven, 11 and 14. This is to ensure the achievement of middle-ranking schools which make great strides with below-average children is recognised and to expose those which coast with bright intakes.

The introduction of pupil identification numbers will ensure that the correct results are used to assess the performance of schools even when some children have moved from elsewhere.

David Hawker, who is developing the "value added" tables for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said: "We are looking at setting up a national pupil number. It is nothing to be frightened of because pupil information is covered by the Data Protection Act. Local education authorities already have their own numbering systems."

But Andrew Puddephat, director of the civil rights pressure group Charter 88, said: "Once you have a unique identification number to keep track of pupils, you really have the basis for a identity card system."

"It is a cliché to talk about a slippery slope, but who knows how it could be used? The Government must explicitly rule out any extension of its use for other purposes."

John Wadham, the director of Liberty, said: "There must be other systems that can cope with the administrative problems without the downside of serious civil liberties implications."

Estelle Morris, the schools standards Minister, said the new measures would give a clearer indication of which schools were improving. This year's tables will also include four previous years' results.

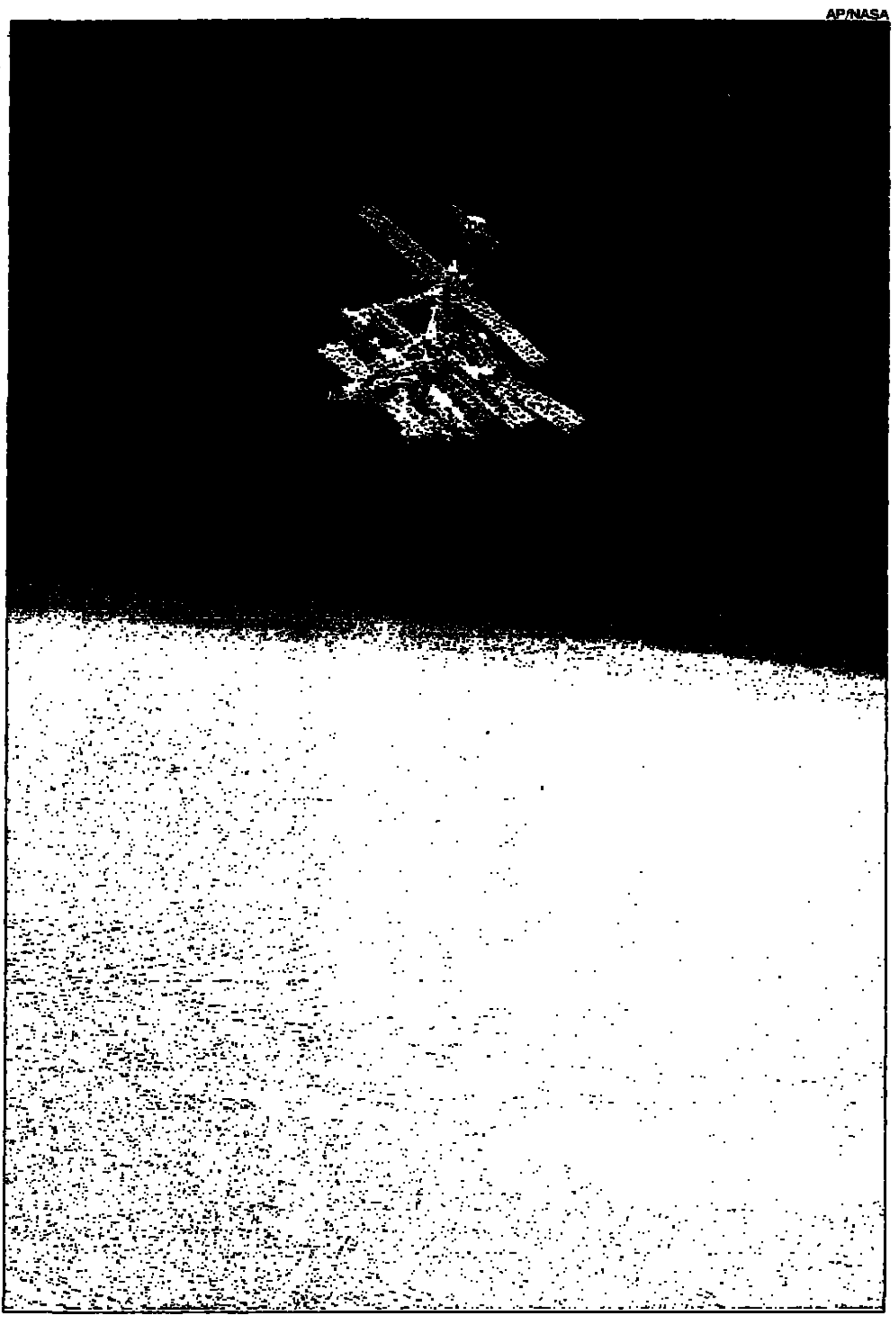
But teaching unions remained hostile. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said publication of league tables should be suspended pending consultation on a better method of monitoring and reporting on school effectiveness. He said: "League tables based on crude results are not a reliable indication of school performance, no matter how they are modified by so-called value added indicators."

Ms Morris also confirmed that the Government would require local authorities to produce their own primary school league tables, although the Department for Education and Employment would publish the results subsequently on the Internet.

The switch to local publication is designed to speed up the process so that the results are available before parents have to choose schools.

National publication" will continue for tables of public examination results.

AP/NASA


The Russian space station Mir, ageing and a subject of increasing safety concerns

Space collision puts cosmonauts at risk

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A COLLISION in space yesterday punched a hole in the Mir space station, putting at risk the lives of the three cosmosnauts aboard.

The unit was quickly sealed off, and Russian mission control said that the cosmonauts, who include British-born Michael Foale, were safe. But the incident is bound to increase anxiety about the safety *of the ageing space station.*

The accident occurred yesterday morning as the crew were practising docking with a Progress supply ship. The cargo ship had been detached on Tuesday, to allow it to reenter the atmosphere and burn up over the Pacific. But before that it was decided to practise the docking manouevre, which has often proved tricky for cosmonauts on Mir.

Instead of docking, however, the Progress craft collided with Spektr, one of six modules attached to Mir, which is used for scientific experiments and Earth observation. The impact damaged Spektr's solar panels and was sufficiently violent to cause a leak. Oxygen rapidly drained away and the crew hurriedly sealed off Spektr from the rest of Mir.

A television picture of the damaged panel

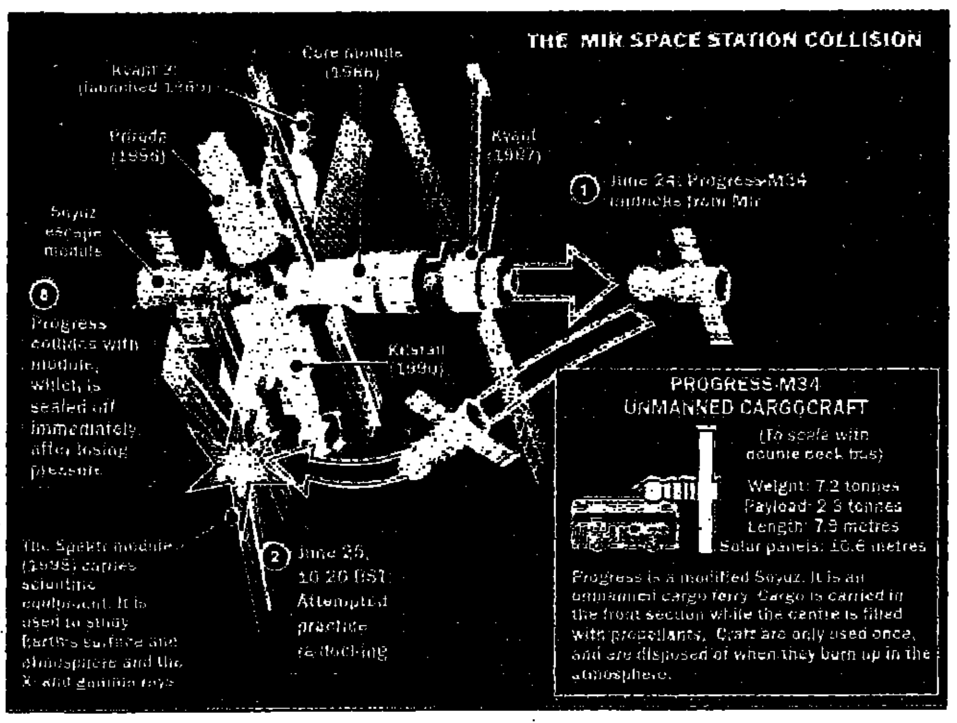
The job took several minutes and pressure inside Mir began to fall. "We have managed to stabilise the situation," said Viktor Blagov, a deputy director of the Russian Mission Control Centre near Moscow. "There is no talk about evacuating the crew or jettisoning the module."

He said the atmospheric pressure aboard Mir dropped slightly but was eventually brought back to normal. The pressure in the damaged module was "heading toward zero", according to Rob Navias, spokesman of the US space agency Nasa, which is engaged in a joint programme with the Russians.

Mr Blagov said that Mir also lost about one-third of its power supply as a result of the collision, and officials were considering how to use the remaining energy more effectively. He said this would not endanger the crew but would impose limits on scientific experiments.

"The multi-module structure of Mir saved it," Mr Blagov said. "It worked like a ship, which can keep afloat if one compartment is damaged." He said that officials had not been able to determine

Continued on page 3, col 1


THE MIR SPACE STATION COLLISION
Kvant 2 (launched 1989)
Core module (1986)
Priroda (1996)
Kvant (1987)
Soyuz escape module
Kristall (1990)
① June 24: Progress-M34 undocks from Mir
② June 25, 10.20 BST: Attempted practice re-docking
③ Progress collides with module, which is sealed off immediately after losing pressure
PROGRESS-M34 UNMANNED CARGOCRAFT
(To scale with double deck bus)
Weight: 7.2 tonnes
Payload: 2.5 tonnes
Length: 7.9 metres
Solar panels: 10.6 metres

The Spektr module (1995) carries scientific equipment. It is used to study Earth's surface and atmosphere and the X- and gamma rays

Progress is a modified Soyuz. It is an unmanned cargo ferry. Cargo is carried in the front section while the centre is filled with propellants. Craft are only used once, and are disposed of when they burn up in the atmosphere.

Hague's fiancée quits Civil Service

Ffion Jenkins, fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service days before she was expected to return from leave to work for a Labour Cabinet minister.

Miss Jenkins decided that her future husband's high profile political role was not compatible with a career in Whitehall ......Page 2

Sir Cameron's millennium role

The theatre impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh has been drafted in to save the troubled millennium exhibition. The creator of West End hit shows will produce a musical as the centrepiece of the Greenwich Dome project ......Page 7

Cousteau, explorer of oceans, dies

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

JACQUES COUSTEAU, the veteran French underwater explorer whose films and books vividly revealed the mysteries of marine life to millions of people around the world, died yesterday, aged 87.

"Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau has gone to the world of silence," the Cousteau Foundation announced in a reference to the celebrated oceanographer's Oscar-winning 1955 documentary, *The Silent World*.

Mourning M Cousteau's death, President Chirac described him as "the world's most famous Frenchman" and "an enchanter in the tradition of ocean explorers whose life seems so much like a legend".

Lionel Jospin, France's Prime Minister, added: "The planet has lost one of its greatest defenders." A memorial service is to be held in Notre Dame on Monday.

Cousteau: "a giant in promoting green issues"

In the course of a 60-year odyssey across and beneath the waters of the world, M Cousteau jointly invented the aqualung, pioneered a jet-propelled submarine, and conducted the first offshore oil exploration. Most of his voyages, from Antarctica to the Amazon and the Red Sea, were aboard the *Calypso*, a British minesweeper that he converted into a floating laboratory.

He once remarked that "in life there are two vi[illegible]quids — water and money. You have to use both."

Francine Cousteau, the explorer's widow, said that he had died of cardiac arrest at their Paris home as a result of complications from a lung infection. "He remained conscious and lucid until the last day," she said. M Cousteau was already ill when he celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday two weeks ago.

The United Nations Earth Summit yesterday paid tribute to a "giant". The summit's presiding officer, Razali Ismail, President of the General Assembly, announcing M Cousteau's death, said he was "a giant of a man in promoting development and environmental issues".

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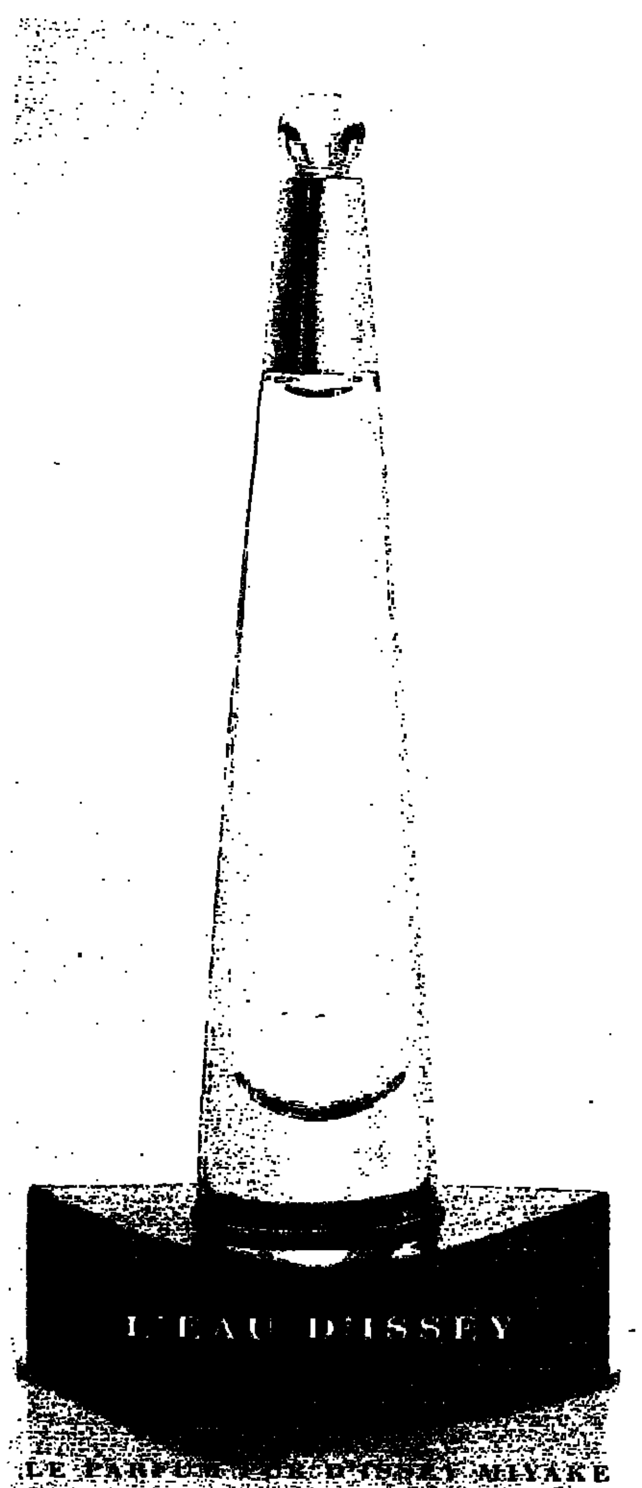
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New brew lacks froth on top, but delivers a kick

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

WILLIAM HAGUE leapt like a tiger at his first chance to intervene at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. As a novice bungee jumper pushes to the front, to get it over with, Mr Hague's anxious lunge at the dispatch box suggested not so much an impatience for the fun as an ache to have done with it.

Yards to his left and impassive as an elderly basking seal, Sir Edward Heath watched the fourteenth new Leader of the Opposition tackle a Prime Minister since, as a young MP, he watched Winston Churchill tackle Clement Attlee half a century ago. John Major watched from the back benches.

This was William Hague's debut. The political world was watching. No doubt his mother was watching. Maybe his girlfriend was watching. From the crowded peers' gallery in the Commons, half the House of Lords seemed to be watching. Some of his friends were watching. All his enemies were watching.

He made a good start.

At first very nervous and fiddling, with notes covered in inky scrawl, he was on the edge of his seat before the Tony Blair had even risen for his first question. This came in the Brummie accents of Dennis Turner (Labour, Wolverhampton South East). The Prime Minister was ready for a dozen great issues of our time. What would Mr Turner ask? Hague was agog.

"I wonder whether my Right Hon Friend has had time to study my Weights & Measures (Beer & Cider) Bill? A full pint with the froth on top!" urged Turner. It was a pity Hague could not keep still and was already straining for the dispatch box. To shrieks of "No froth on top! Ha, ha, ha!", Labour fingers pointed at his head, but the PM steered clear of baldist controversy and spoke of his commitment to a full pint.

Too wound up to notice the joke, Hague shot to his feet. His voice was uncertain. Betty Boothroyd had to silence Labour backbenchers, still cackling "No froth on top".

But when he was heard, it was Blair's turn to tense up. Five times the new Tory leader put it to him that one of his Welsh backbenchers was complaining he had been threatened by the Welsh Secretary with expulsion from the party, unless he toed the line on devolution. And Hague alleged that local councillors had tried to intimidate their MP.

Blair flatly denied both charges. The Welsh Secretary (he said) had assured him that the first was untrue; and Blair had ordered an investigation into the second, which showed that to be a fiction too. Allegation and denial shot back and forth like a Wimbledon rally. Hague's supporters roared him on; Blair's roared their man on. You could take your choice which to believe, but Mr Blair's irritable, dismissive laugh, and a sprinkling of worried faces among the multicoloured matchstick men and women behind him, suggested that the accusation hurt.

Hague's delivery sometimes faltered (he needs, in trouper Boothroyd's phrase, to "produce"), but his argument did not. The PM sat down less than wounded, but mightily stung. Paddy Ashdown spoiled his day a little more by siding with the Labour Left against their leader. The Liberal Democrat leader is insisting that more be spent on health and education, and will not let the matter drop.

The more critics refuse to let a subject drop, the more Tony Blair goes ragged. For the first time in this Parliament, it was possible to believe that, with an energetic Tory leader attacking from the Right and a dogged Liberal Democrat attacking from the Left, the Opposition parties might combine to ruffle the Prime Minister's so-far magnificent self-assurance.

Hague's fiancée quits her job at the Welsh Office

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

FFION JENKINS, fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service days before she was expected to return from leave to serve a Labour Cabinet minister.

Miss Jenkins, who was Mr Hague's private secretary when he was Welsh Secretary in the last Government, decided that her future husband's high-profile political role was not compatible with a career in Whitehall. She has not been back to her desk since Labour won the election.

The decision to give up her Civil Service career will fuel speculation that the couple are planning to get married sooner rather than later. However, friends of the couple maintain that the Oxford educated high-flyer will put her own career first.

Romance blossomed when Miss Jenkins, 29, taught Mr Hague the words of the Welsh national anthem sitting on a wall of a village pub overlooking the mountains. She sang the anthem for two hours. Their surprise engagement was announced in March after a six- month courtship.

Miss Jenkins went on a three month sabbatical in March. When it came to an end she took unpaid leave of absence to consider her future. But now she has submitted her notice in writing. A spokesman for the Welsh Office confirmed: "She has formally tendered her resignation. Recently."

Her £28,000-a-year role would have brought her into regular contact with Ron Davies, the new Welsh Secretary, and other political appointees. Miss Jenkins, known as "Jolly" to her friends, may seek a new challenge in the private sector or academia.

A copy of her curriculum vitae has been sent to a firm of headhunters makes impressive reading. She has four A levels, three at grade A, read English at Oxford and did a Master of Philosophy which included a thesis written entirely in Welsh on the English poet Thomas Gray. She also plays the harp and the clarinet.

Her connections are impeccable, as befits the new first lady of Tory politics. Dr Manon Williams, her older sister, is a key member of in the private office of the Prince of Wales. Her father, Emyr, is chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales.

Miss Jenkins, who has been photographed stepping out with Mr Hague more frequently recently, is expected to devote the next few weeks to working on a thesis for a doctorate in medieval studies.

A Tory MP who has been denied frontbench office for 27 years was the latest appointment yesterday in William Hague's frontbench team. Sir David Madel (Bedfordshire South West), one of the last of the old-style, pro-European Wets, was made an opposition whip. James Cran (Beverley) is also made a whip, as are Oliver Heald (Hertfordshire North East) and Nigel Waterson (Eastbourne).

CHRIS HARRIS

William Hague and Ffion Jenkins: she has quit Civil Service, where she would have worked for a Labour minister

Image makers divided by Kojak look with a Yorkshire accent

By Andrew Pierce and Mark Henderson

THE image consultant who transformed the appearance of Margaret Thatcher predicted yesterday that William Hague would be one of the most telegenic politicians in decades, following his first Prime Minister's Question Time.

Sir Gordon Reece, who was credited with changing Baroness Thatcher's hairstyle, wardrobe, and lowering the pitch of her voice, said: "I would not alter the way he looks or sounds very much at all. He has always had distinctive Yorkshire vowels. I think that they are rather appealing. The voice is like a musical instrument. You have to learn how to use it.

"I think William has done his homework. He has had plenty of time. He has been speaking in public since he was 16. As for being bald, I do not think it will matter a bit. It might even add an air of authority which belies his youthful looks."

However, Mary Spillane, the image consultant who changed the beard and sandals image of many Liberal Democrats MPs, said: "Hague needs to do something about that giant dome when he stands at the dispatch box. It catches the light, and coupled with his slightly monotonous delivery, it can make him look and sound tedious.

"He should certainly be using a powder on it to stop the glare, and perhaps he should consider using a heavy foundation cream to block it. He's very fair skinned, which makes matters worse."

She said he was right in not trying to conceal his baldness. "He has chosen a flattering hairstyle that shows he is receding but makes the best of it," she said.

Sir Ronald Millar, who was a speechwriter for Sir Edward heath, Baroness Thatcher and John Major, gave Mr Hague seven marks out of 10 for his first performance: "He is still behind Margaret. She started off on 8½. When she first went to the dispatch box, I thought she looked like she came straight out of the film the *Sound of Music*. William looks more like he came out of a Kojak episode. He is like the star of a smart detective series. His voice is strong.

"I think his double breasted suits are clever because they convey an impression of weight even though he is only a slip of a lad."

Sir Gordon: he was Thatcher adviser

Most observers thought that Mr Hague had shown signs of nerves when he rose to deliver his first question. "But I like that," said Sir Ronald. "It would have been a mistake to have been cocky and to appear to be the king of the castle."

Robert Freeburn, director of the Voice and Speech Centre in London, said Mr Hague's delivery was predictable, flat and lacking in impact. He said that despite a resonant voice which showed good speaking technique, he was not yet a match for the Prime Minister.

"His voice is very flat, with very few highlights," Mr Freeburn said. "He does not even mark his voice with a rising inflexion on a question, which is wrong. I would hesitate to say he was monotonous, but he certainly lacks a dynamic quality."

☐ Mr Hague put in four hours' preparation for Question Time, coached by close advisers including Alan Duncan, his Parliamentary Political Secretary. Tony Blair went into the Commons chamber late at night and went through the motions at the dispatch box for his debut. Mr Hague rejected that idea.

New leader must make his face fit

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

A PROBLEM faces William Hague: the vast majority of the public does not know what to make of him. He has risen so far so fast that he has not yet established a clear image — either with the public as a whole or with the reduced band of committed Tory supporters.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times*, the first since the general election, underlines the extent of the task facing Mr Hague. The poll, full details of which will appear tomorrow, was undertaken last weekend just after all the publicity about Mr Hague's election as leader. Nevertheless, only a quarter of the public has a firm view about Mr Hague and they are split evenly in being satisfied or dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job as Tory leader. Nearly 75 per cent say they don't know. While 23 per cent of Tory supporters say they are satisfied with his performance, 72 per cent don't know.

These figures are hardly surprising. The public is suspending its verdict. What is striking, however, is the contrast between Mr Hague's rating now and those of other Opposition leaders just after were elected. The public had much firmer opinions about the last four Labour leaders, largely because they had already been much better known. The level of don't knows for the four ranged between 50 and 58 per cent, substantially less than for Mr Hague. Their satisfaction ratings varied between 23 per cent for Michael Foot at the end of 1980 and 34 per cent for Tony Blair in summer 1994.

MORI also probed more closely peoples' attitudes towards Mr Hague. A tenth of the public, but 28 per cent of Tory supporters, say they like both him and his policies. At the opposite end of the spectrum, 16 per cent of the public, and 6 per cent of Tory supporters, dislike both him and his policies. In the middle, some 8 per cent (4 per cent of Tories) like him but dislike his policies, while 4 per cent (5 per cent of Tories) dislike him but like his policies. Most significant of all, 62 per cent of the public as a whole, and 56 per cent of Tory supporters, have no opinion.

Mr Hague, of course, has time on his side — probably more than he would like. His immediate need is to establish his personality with the electorate. He made a solid start at Prime Minister's Questions, sharp and to the point, if perhaps on a second-order question that did not quite bear the number of supplementaries he asked.

What he now needs to do is not to launch a series of policy initiatives but to give the public an impression of his underlying approach to politics, just as Mr Blair did with his dramatic initiative to rewrite Clause Four. The short-term risk, underlined by his generally lightweight and unimpressive frontbench team, is that the Tories will be ignored and pushed to the edge of the political stage.

MORI interviewed 1,852 adults at 173 sampling points across Britain on June 20-23. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

PETER RIDDELL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strang is to review bus services

The Government is to review bus services in an attempt to make them more efficient, reliable and frequent.

The review was announced yesterday by Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, who said that the aim was to increase the number of people using buses. "The basic problem is that in many areas we don't have a reliable bus service so that you can go to the stop and know that the bus will be there in a few minutes." All sections of the bus industry will be consulted and the review will form part of the proposed White Paper on integrated transport policy to be published next spring.

Leading article, page 23

Fast sackings

A fast-track plan to sack bad teachers has been agreed by employers. If accepted by ministers, a new charge of gross incompetence will lead to dismissal within two terms. The present system has seven stages and takes two years or longer. The Local Government Association said it wanted a "fair but fast" means of dismissing incompetent teachers.

Never say dye

The washday nightmare of whites turned sickly pink or sky blue could be banished by a new enzyme developed by the Danish biotechnology company Novo-Nordisk. Added to a detergent, the enzyme bleaches out dyes, but only when they have bled accidentally in the wash. It has no effect on the original coloured fabrics, the developers claim.

Breath of hope

One of the Siamese twin girls separated by surgeons at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital a week ago is now breathing unaided. The girls, who were joined at the abdomen, were delivered by Caesarean section on April 7. The second twin remains on a ventilator. A hospital spokesman said: "Both are stable and making good progress."

Bombings case

Two men accused of taking part in terrorist bombings in France lost their High Court attempt to avoid extradition on the ground that they would not receive a fair trial in "racist" France. The court refused applications from Rachid Ramda, an Algerian, and Mustapha Boutarfa, who has dual French and Algerian nationality, for writs of habeas corpus.

Balloonist pays

A woman who lost her enthusiasm for sex after being thrown from a horse when it was frightened by a hot-air balloon was awarded £18,657 damages at Norwich Crown Court. Christine Stiven, 32, from Norwich, had sued the balloonist, Gary Andrewarthi, 32, of Gooderstone, Norfolk, for injuries she received in April 1994.

Duke rests

The Duke of Westminster has accepted medical advice not to resume work or public engagements until September. Britain's richest landlord, said to be worth nearly £1.7 billion, has been resting since early this month. His personal secretary said at the time that the 46-year-old duke had been working too hard and had been ordered to rest by his doctor.

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Nasa urged to heed Mir safety warnings

Fears for future of American shuttle missions

From Ian Brodie
in Washington

Michael Foale seemed happy to be aboard Mir after his arrival on May 17. He is due to stay until September

THE head of Nasa was urged yesterday to send no more astronauts for a long-term stay on Mir until he is satisfied the Russian space station meets or exceeds American safety standards.

The warning was issued during a meeting in Washington between Dan Goldin, Nasa administrator, and James Sensenbrenner, chairman of the science committee in the House of Representatives. In April, Mr Sensenbrenner included a provision barring further astronauts from Mir in the Nasa budget as it was passed by the House. The Bill is now awaiting consideration by the Senate before going to President Clinton for signature.

Although the ban is not yet law, Mr Sensenbrenner said: "I for one can no longer sit idly by as mishap after mishap occurs while we continue to plan the next shuttle mission to Mir in September, hoping for, but not really expecting, that the mission will succeed without a potentially life-threatening situation."

Mr Sensenbrenner demanded that Mr Goldin initiate a comprehensive, independent review of Mir's technical integrity in advance of the September launch, which will bring home Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut who has been aboard Mir for nearly six weeks. Mr Goldin pointed out that a still-secret outside review of the Russian spacecraft had already been conducted.

Mr Sensenbrenner said he did not believe it satisfied the demands of his Bill and it certainly did not address the failures associated with yesterday's crash during the test docking of a cargo vehicle.

The words of Dr Foale are coming back to haunt Nasa. "It will be like working on a second-hand car," he said jauntily as he embarked on his four-month stint in space. In fact, he understated the case by a wide margin. It is one thing to be tinkering under a car that has 100,000 miles on the clock, but quite another trying to hold together an orbiting clunker that was built to spend five years in space and has been there for 11.

In the bonhomie of international collaboration, Nasa glosses over its concerns about Mir. A rare comment on the record came earlier this month from Dr Foale's American predecessor as a long-term guest on Mir, Jerry Lineger.

He said: "After the fire, it seemed like every day something else was going wrong." The brief flash fire last February in an air filter was, like most of Mir's troubles, associated with life support systems.

The primary oxygen generator failed, the air conditioning conked out, the carbon dioxide extractor broke down and the spacecraft developed a list. In an incident similar to yesterday's collision, cosmonauts lost control of a cargo craft as it tried to dock.

Nasa officials are defensive about Russia's space programme. Audrey Schwartz, a Nasa spokeswoman, said: "The Russians are as resourceful as our Mission Control at handling real-time problems. They know their equipment very well."

But there is no disguising that since the break-up of the Soviet Union the Russian space programme has lost prestige, and more importantly, its virtually unlimited funding from Moscow. As a result, the Russians are behind on their contributions to the international space station that is intended to take over from Mir as a permanently manned orbiting laboratory.

Originally due to be launched in November, it has now been delayed at least until next June.

☐ The cosmonauts are showing signs of becoming irritable, according to a Dutch amateur radio enthusiast who has monitored communications to Mir for many years.

Chris van den Berg says that on every pass, Tsibliyev and Lazutkin discuss with mission control how their repairs are going. "They are finding a lot of problem with cables and contacts which they cannot find or do not fit."

Mr van den Berg believes the problems and setbacks of the present mission are taking their toll on the cosmonauts. They have been on Mir for 136 days, and were joined by Dr Foale just over a month ago. Dr Foale told his father last week the Russians were anxious that their relief crew would be launched on time on August 8. Previous missions have been delayed.

Additional reporting by Robin Lodge, in Moscow, and Nigel Hawkes

Briton who wanted to explore new worlds

By Joanna Bale

Mary Foale: spoke to her son on Father's Day

MICHAEL FOALE is an "explorer and dreamer" who did everything possible to achieve his boyhood ambition of becoming an astronaut, his mother said yesterday.

Mary Foale, a retired Cambridge University librarian, said: "Like the *Star Trek* theme, he wanted to boldly go where no man had gone before. He wanted to seek new worlds and new ideas.

"As a little boy, he talked of little else after being inspired by John Glenn, the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth."

Mrs Foale regularly sends her son bars of English chocolate, which are transported to Mir in supply rockets. She said: "What will most annoy Michael is that it will probably delay a couple of packages we have sent up for him. Every now and again we are allowed to send up parcels weighing no more than a couple of pounds via these modules."

Mrs Foale and her husband Colin, a former RAF Air Commodore from Cambridge, last had contact with their son on Saturday through e-mail messages relayed to Mir via Moscow. They last spoke to him on Father's Day, by satellite phone link. Mrs Foale said: "He was very cheerful and upbeat. He said he was looking down at Britain and all he could see was the cloud cover."

Of the accident, Mrs Foale said: "I don't think there is any danger, but there is an escape vehicle they can use if there is a serious problem."

Mrs Foale, who is American, said that her son's ambitions had begun "when, aged six, he saw the John Glenn capsule at a State Fair in Minnesota on a trip to see his grandparents. It became his dream and he was very single-minded in pursuing it."

As a schoolboy, he covered his bedroom walls with photographs from the Nasa press office and lost himself in science fiction books.

He even regarded the rigours of life as a boarder at King's School, Canterbury as good preparation for life on board a space shuttle because there is "no personal privacy, the food is rotten and there are no women," according to a recent interview.

After a doctorate in astrophysics at Queen's College, Cambridge, he tried to interest the British Government in a manned space flight. When this failed, he used his dual nationality to emigrate to America to pursue his career in the US space programme.

His first job was in Houston, Texas, working on space shuttle navigational problems at the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation. In June 1983, he joined Nasa's Johnson Space Center, working in payload operations. There, he met his wife Rhonda who was working as a shuttle engineer. He was selected for astronaut training by Nasa in 1987, and passed in August 1988.

A father of two, he is a veteran of three space shuttle flights in which he spent a total of 634 hours in orbit. In November 1995 he flew on the first shuttle to rendezvous with Mir and became the first Briton to walk in space.

Mr Foale, 40, is one of the few American astronauts to speak fluent Russian and spent 18 months training at the Cosmonaut Training Centre in Star City, Russia.

SPACE ACCIDENTS

October 1960, USSR: military rocket blows up on launch pad and kills many technicians, including head of Space Forces.

January 1967, USA: Apollo 1 catches fire on launchpad. All three crew killed.

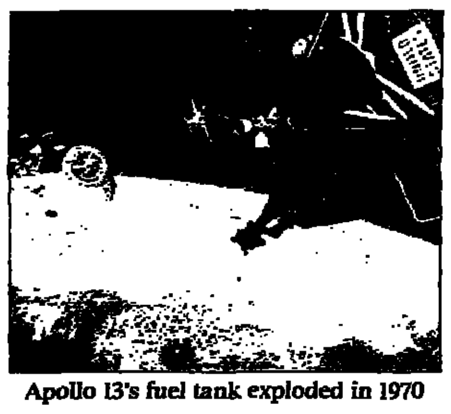
April 1967, USSR: Soyuz 1 suffers from many problems, culminating in loss of cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov when the capsule spins uncontrollably and parachute tangles around itself and fails to open.

April 1970, USA: Apollo 13 crew survive onboard explosion of fuel tank which results in loss of electrical power and oxygen.

June 1971, USSR: Soyuz 11 crew lost when valve accidentally opens during return to Earth and crew are asphyxiated as they are not wearing spacesuits.

April 1975, USSR: Soyuz 18 fails to separate from booster on cue and starts to tumble on the edge of space. By firing emergency rockets, the crew survive but the capsule lands in waist-deep snow.

September 1983, USSR: Soyuz T-10 booster explodes on launchpad due to engine fire. Crew fire emergency rescue rocket and are pulled away from resulting explosion.



Apollo 13's fuel tank exploded in 1970

January 1986, USA: Challenger explodes 73 seconds after lift-off on 25th Shuttle mission. Crew of seven are killed and debris is still washing up on the Florida shores today.

February 1997, Russia: fire aboard Mir caused by emergency oxygen generating equipment causes serious damage, but crew survive.

Mir in space collision

Continued from page 1

whether the accident was caused by faulty equipment or human error. Vasily Tsibliyev, a Russian cosmonaut, was at the controls when the accident occurred.

With him aboard Mir are Alexander Lazutkin and Mr Foale, who arrived about a month ago. Both were helping with the docking procedure.

Had an emergency evacuation been necessary, the crew could have used the Soyuz capsule attached to the other end of the station to make a quick exit and return to Earth. But there was no indication yesterday that this option had been seriously considered.

The damage to the Spektr module will wreck Mr Foale's experiments, which were housed inside it. He had been growing plants through a series of generations, raising seeds, pollinating flowers, and creating fresh seeds for a second and then a third generation. The aim was to check the effects of zero gravity on the growth of plants. It will also leave Mr Foale without a place to sleep, as the module served as his living quarters as well as his laboratory.

Repair of the Spektr module in space is likely to be difficult, if not impossible. Mr Blagov said that the crew might have to make space walks to connect the solar panels on Spektr to the main module of Mir with cables. Repressurising Spektr would involve sealing the damage caused by the crash and that could well be impossible in space.

As for the Progress M34 supply ship which did the damage, it remained in orbit close to the space station. Once all the data it contains has been studied, it will be discarded to burn up in the atmosphere, as is normally done with such craft at the end of their mission. A new Progress, M35, is ready with fresh food and equipment and was due for launch at the end of this week. The manoeuvre that went wrong was apparently designed to check the manual docking system, so that it can fully replace the automatic system which takes up a lot of space on board Mir and has repeatedly failed in recent years. The equipment is made in the Ukraine, and experts are unhappy about both its quality and terms of delivery, Mr Blagov said.

In 1994, another Progress cargo ship twice failed to dock properly with Mir on the automatic system. But on that occasion the cosmonauts succeeded in linking it with the station on a third attempt by using manual controls.

Wednesday's crash was not the first space collision, although it appears to be the worst involving Mir. A supply ship brushed against the space station before, and there have been similar circumstances involving Soyuz spacecraft, said Mr Navias, the Nasa spokesman.

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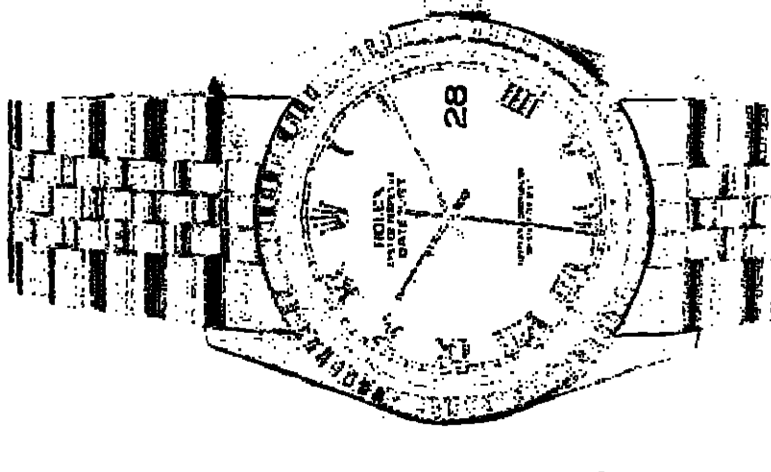

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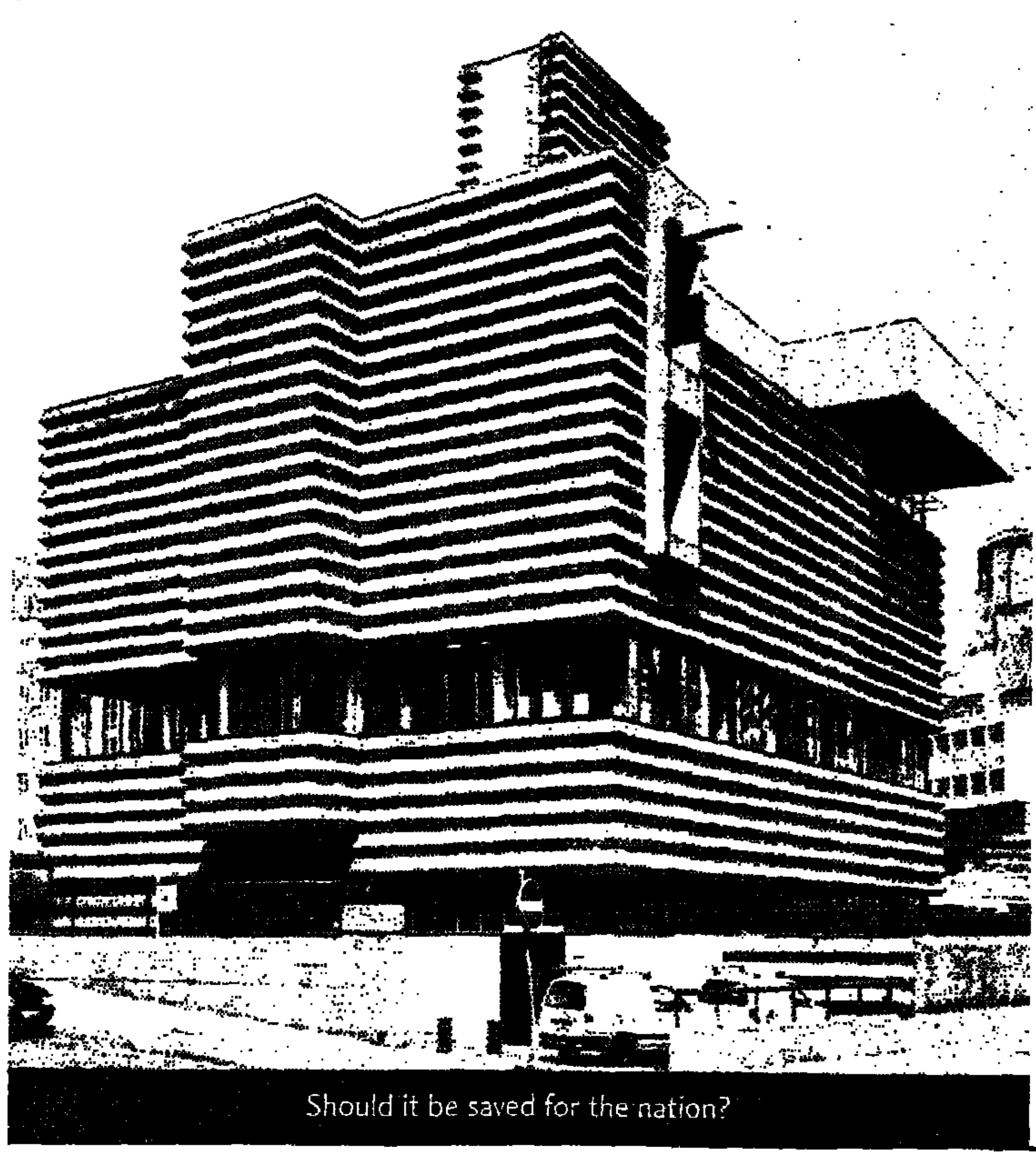

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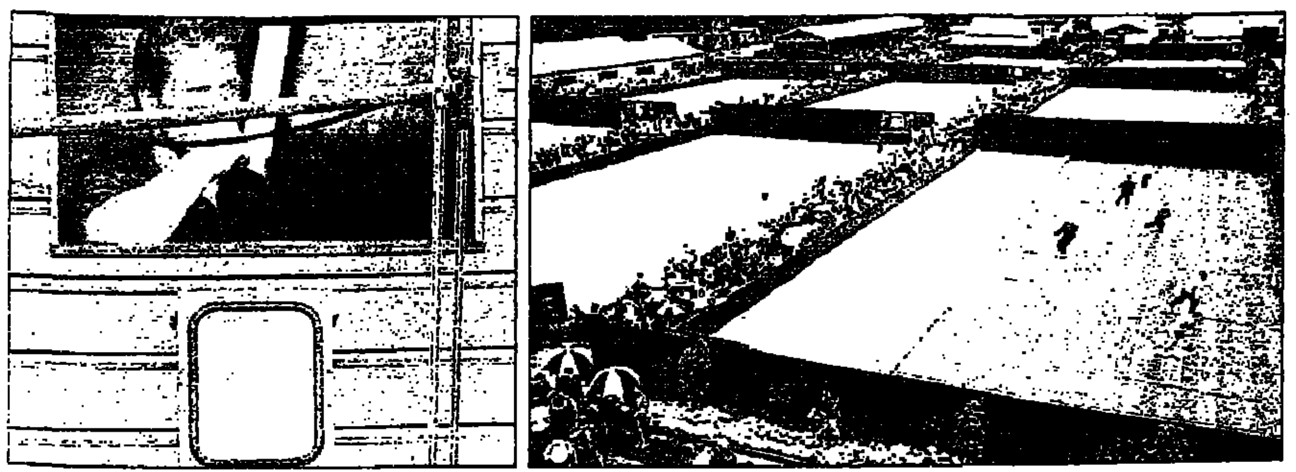
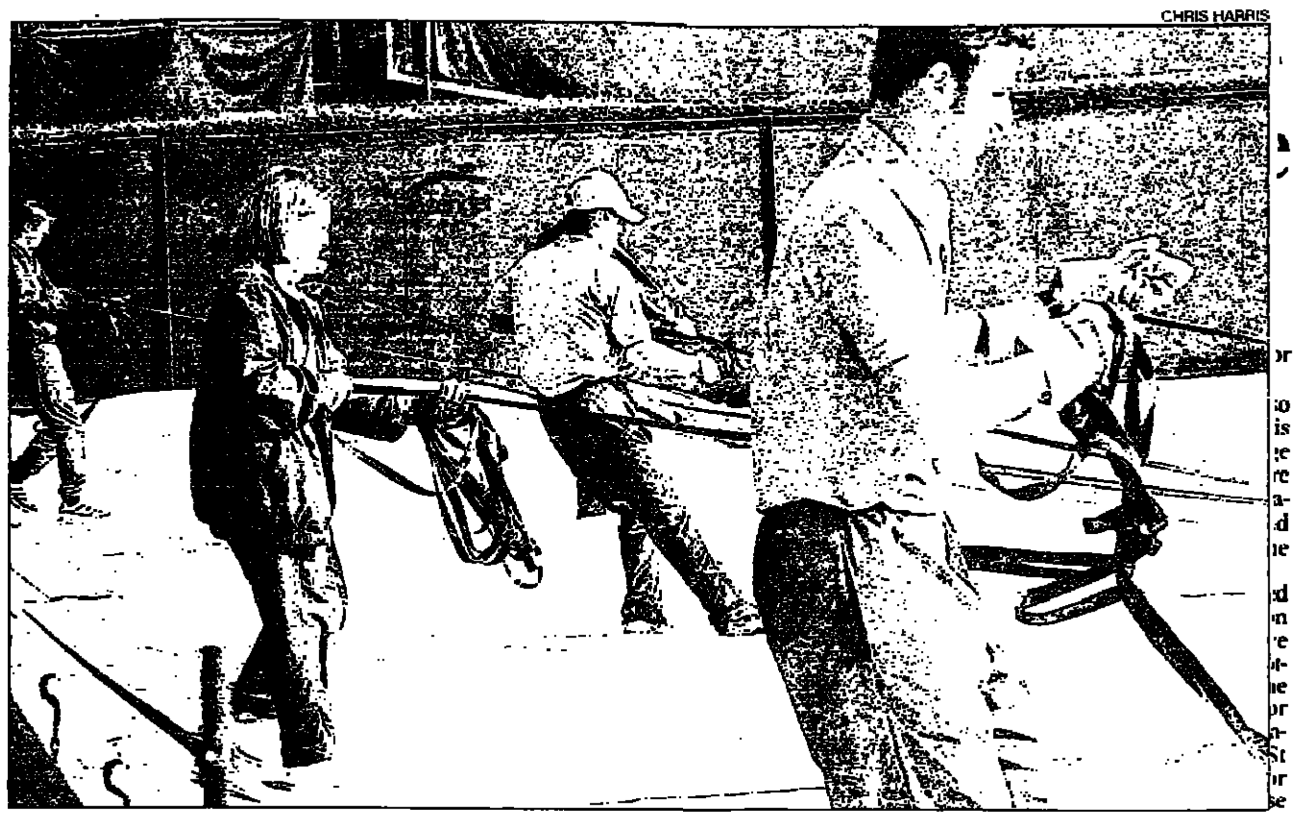


Code 2 means cover the courts immediately, and the teams spring into action. The record is 32 seconds

CHRIS HARRIS



Game to the undercover heroes of Wimbledon

Stephen Farrell and **John Goodbody** on yesterday's unmatched stars

COLD and wet, the undercover heroes of Wimbledon huddled in towel cupboards and Portakabins yesterday, waiting for the secret signal to spring into action. After nine hours, it finally came. A prearranged code flashed on to a digital board above Court 7, and the green nylon covers were deflated and pulled back, briefly, to cheers from half-empty stands.

The court-cover squad is made up of 120 students, paid £25 a day during the championship fortnight. When the sun shines, they are ignored by everyone. But when the rain falls, they suddenly become the most powerful and unpopular people at the event. Sprinting on to the courts, they clear nets, posts, chairs and towels within 40 seconds, bundling off players and line judges. While the Centre Court is covered by the club's own groundstaff and No 1 Court by the Army, the students are on all outside and practice courts. Until last year, their power was absolute. Umpires who refused to move were wheeled off in their chairs. A player who grumbled — including, memorably, Jimmy Connors — suddenly found himself jumping to avoid a heavy roller.

They operate in teams of six, with only one woman per team because they are deemed less able to pull the rollers. Two of the team must remain courtside at all times, no matter how sunny, and the working day can be 8am to 10pm. Their lives are governed by the referee's hotline to the weathermen.

While other eyes are fixed on the Centre and No 1 Court scoreboards, they stare in the other direction to watch for code numbers of the crow's nest scoreboard. The code is: 1, standby; 2, cover immediately, even if rain has not yet begun; 3, inflate; 4, deflate; 5, uncover. For tennis fans it is the ideal job, and there may be other compensations. Each year rumours abound of late-night sexual activity on the hallowed turf under the inflated covers. Veterans recall great amusement when the Court 5 team arrived the morning after a party to find champagne glasses, contraceptives and a discarded stocking on the grass.

This year has had a tough start. Rain badly disrupted the qualifying tournament at the Bank of England ground, which affected the build-up for the main event. A senior member of staff said: "It was the worst possible start. At no stage could we get all the teams together for practice. Most of the students are new this year and they have been kept by their courts the whole time." However, this year is unlikely to equal the worst of all. In 1922 it rained every day.

The average time for covering a court is 40 seconds, and the all-time record 32 seconds. This year, the crow's nest staff have observed, the Court 7 team is the quickest. Yesterday umbrellas remained resolutely out until 5.30pm, and even then the respite was brief. In less than an hour, the covers were back on before even a single point had been played in some matches.

Letters, page 23
Tennis, pages 48 & 52

More rain this month than all of summer '95

By Mark Henderson

THE wet weather which washed out four hours of play at Wimbledon yesterday and blighted the Lord's Test is the worst for ten years, the Meteorological Office said yesterday. It is already the wettest June since 1991 and, if the rain continues, as is forecast, it will be the wettest since 1987.

There has been more rain since June 1 than in the entire summer of 1995, with 87mm already recorded. Hosepipe bans and drought restrictions are unlikely to be lifted, however. The Environment Agency said that reservoirs would need several more months of similar rain levels to benefit.

The forecast is for more showers, and the Met Office thinks the June 1991 figure of 93mm is almost certain to be eclipsed, though it would need to rain heavily for every remaining day of the month to beat the June 1987 figure of 105mm.

Wimbledon narrowly avoided losing a whole day's play for the first time since 1992, when the second Friday was rained off. Only 27 days have been lost completely to rain in the championships' 110-year history. In 1995, no rain fell during Wimbledon fortnight.

Andy Yeatman, of the Met Office, said the rain had been caused by an area of low pressure over Britain that had not moved away as quickly as usual. "Normally low pressure whizzes across the country and is gone in a few days. This one just sat there, so we got grey skies and lots of showers."

The low pressure, which was forecast in the Met Office's latest long-term bulletin, is likely to remain for at least another week, bringing the prospect of further disruption to Wimbledon and the Old Trafford Test match, which starts next Thursday.

Piers Corbyn, of Weather Action, which produces long-range forecasts using solar activity, said that more rain was expected in July. "There is a lot of solar activity at the moment, which tends to make weather cycles more extreme."

Forecast, page 26

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Princess pulls out of mines meeting after Tory censure

By Emma Wilkins

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was "extremely disappointed and frustrated" yesterday after deciding to withdraw from a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss a worldwide ban on landmines.

It is understood that the Princess, who returned from New York early yesterday, was shocked by criticism of her proposed visit to the Commons by some Tory MPs.

They claimed that the Princess's attendance at the meeting, to be adressed by the Independent MP Martin Bell, would break the convention that members of the Royal Family do not become involved in party politics.

The Princess had talks with ier staff at Kensington Palace vernight, and made the decision not to attend the meeting ifter she arrived home from he United States. A statement said: "As the Princess has stated on a number of occasions, her involvement in the ssues surrounding anti-personnel landmines is exclusivey humanitarian.

"The all-party private meeting was to have been an pportunity for the Princess to e further briefed on certain of he issues. Details of the neeting have, however, now een made public and a political dimension has been ntroduced to its purpose. As consequence the Princess's ttendance has been made intenable."

Members of the all-party andmines Eradication Group, ncluding the chairman, the abour MP Frank Cook, will e invited to speak to the Princess at Kensington Palace. Mr Cook expressed anger about the decision "forced on" the Princess: "Most MPs are happy about her involvement. Twenty-five thousand people a year lose their lives while these small-minded backbenchers are arguing about details on an unjustified basis."

A close friend of the Princess said: "To say she feels extremely disappointed is an understatement. It seems she cannot do anything without someone using it as an excuse to attack her. She thinks it is astonishing that one or two politicians should try to turn this into a political issue. It is a humanitarian issue: anyone can see that. She felt she didn't want to detract from the meeting or have it turned into a media circus. She is feeling very sad and frustrated."

> ‘It seems she cannot do anything without someone using it as an excuse to attack her’

David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, who had questioned the constitutional implications of the Princess's visit to the Commons meeting, said he was not sorry that she had decided to pull out. He said he was sympathetic to the Princess's views on landmines, but believed there should be a proper national debate before any change in the constitutional position of the Royal Family to allow its members to attend political functions.

However, George Foulkes, junior International Development Minister, said during Commons questions: "The Princess of Wales has helped to raise the profile of this issue and it is entirely regrettable she has had to withdraw because of pressure from Members opposite." A Downing Street spokesman said No 10 had not been involved with the Princess's decision.

The Princess has recently addressed politicians on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject of landmines without attracting the ire of Tory MPs. Clare Short, International Development Secretary, was in the audience for the Princess's speech at the Royal Geographical Society two weeks ago. Elizabeth Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, joined the Princess's campaign in America against landmines. Neither event attracted such political criticism.

"It seems that a very small number of people have managed to create a fuss out of nothing simply because they object to a member of the Royal Family entering the House of Commons," one of the Princess's advisers said.

It is understood that the Princess's decision not to attend the meeting was taken after wide consultation with experts on royal protocol.

RUSSELL CUSBY/REUTERS

The Princess after arriving at Heathrow yesterday. Critics said her Commons visit would break royal protocol

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man and sons die in cliff plunge

An accountant threw himself and his two sons, aged one and three, 400ft off Beachy Head, East Sussex, yesterday, killing them all. Police had been searching for John Chetwynd since his Vietnamese-born wife, Hiet, was taken to hospital after being attacked with a baseball bat at home in Hayes, west London.

Boxer in court

Herbie Hide, former world heavyweight boxing champion, denied kerb-crawling when he appeared in court at Highgate, north London. The case against Hide, 25, from Norwich, was adjourned until August.

Passengers hurt

Ten passengers were hurt, none seriously, when a crowded rush-hour train hit the buffers at Victoria station, London. Railtrack launched an inquiry into the incident, which involved the 6.54am from Ashford in Kent.

Bridge too far

Plans for a second road bridge to span the Forth were shelved by Malcolm Chisholm, the Scottish Transport Minister. The £150 million project was drawn up by the previous Government under the Private Finance Initiative.

Widow wins

A widow given 28 days to leave Britain can stay. Karen Marlow, 32, of Wortwell, Norfolk, an American, was in the United States when her British husband died. Immigration officials said she had no right of residence.

Promise kept

Mark Payton, six, promised to invite Pat and Howard Duke to his wedding after they helped his family in Ibiza. Now 27 and a cabinet maker, he has married at Windsor Castle with the Sheffield couple among the guests.

Independent schools join in summer literacy scheme

By David Charter
Eucation Correspondent

WO independent schools yesteray joined the Government's sumer scheme to improve the literacy f children who attend state prima schools.

David Blunkett, the Education nd Employment Secretary, anounced their involvement after lews International, owner of *The imes*, made a donation of £250,000 at will double the number of children who are able to take part. Mr Blunkett said the donation would help 1,580 11-year-olds to attend classes during their holidays to improve their reading and writing skills before starting secondary school.

The two independents, Dulwich College in southeast London and King Edward's School in Birmingham, were yesterday named among 21 schools joining the 29 originals in the scheme. Mr Blunkett said the project demonstrated the Government's desire to work with independent schools, which have been wary of Labour's attitude towards their charitable status.

"This is a sign of our encouragement of partnerships between independent and state schools so they can work together for the benefit of all the pupils in their areas," Mr Blunkett said at News International's plant in Wapping, east London.

"Thanks to this generous donation by News International, we can now fund a total of 50 schools and and offer twice as many pupils the opportunity to improve their reading skills."

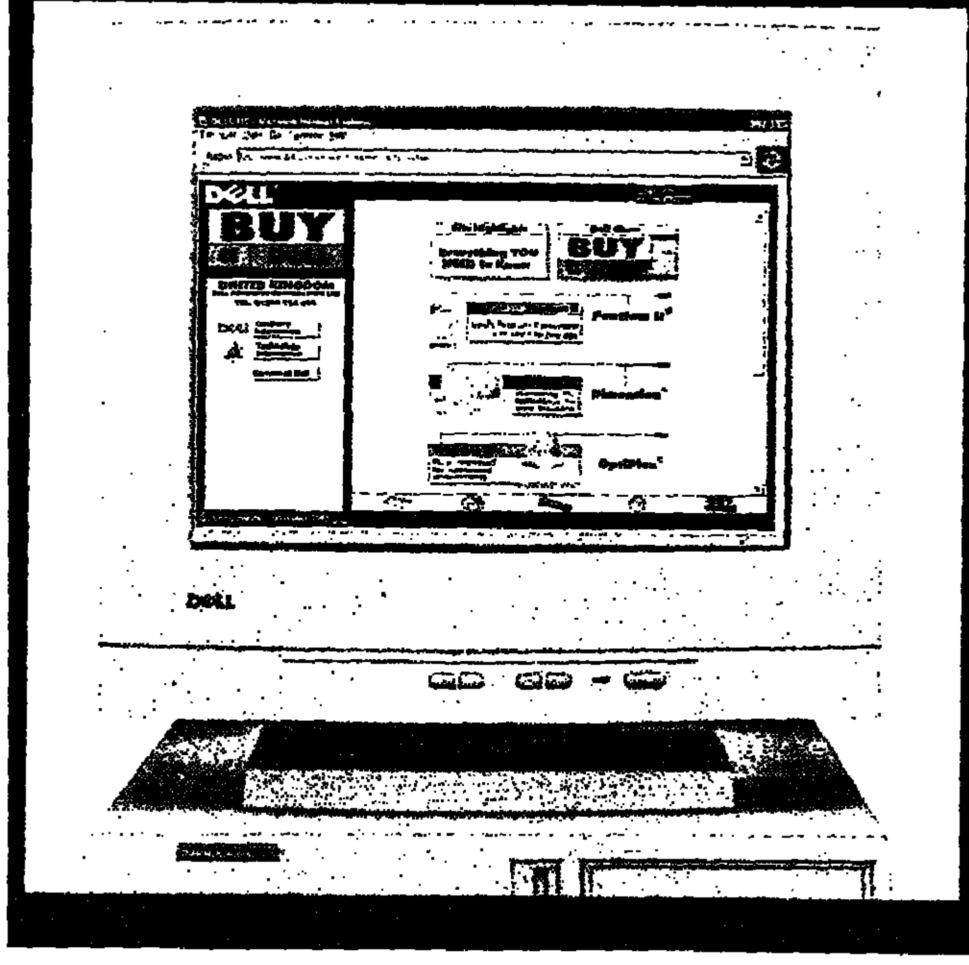
Les Hinton, executive chairman of News International, said: "The Summer Literacy Schools initiative gives children the opportunity to improve their reading skills at this crucial stage in their school career. This will allow them to enter secondary education on an equal footing with their friends and go on to achieve the high standards of education that modern UK business requires."

Hugh Wright, Chief Master at King Edward's School, said his sixth formers would help teachers to give the children 50 hours of lessons. The school already runs weekend classes for local children.

"We were absolutely delighted to be asked to be involved. The Government could not have given a better signal of its plans for partnership with independent schools."

Graham Able, Master of Dulwich College, said it had run summer lessons on Saturdays for a number of years. "It is a natural extension of the Saturday school concept," he said. "I don't think we would see this as a way of trying to curry favour with any particular political party, but trying to provide a local service."

A number of other companies are also helping the scheme, including Alton Towers, which is offering incentive trips to children from two schools.



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I am worth every penny, says £½m Dome supremo

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JENNIFER PAGE, chief executive of the Millennium Dome project, last night put up a staunch defence of her three-year £500,000 salary package and said she was "worth very penny".

The 53-year-old public service high-flyer authorised her company, Millennium Central, to describe the scale of the job and how she represented good value for money. A spokesman said that Miss Page was no "fat cat" and that she was in charge of one of the largest construction projects in the world.

It emerged that a last-minute deal between the former Government and the Labour Party before the election approved a £150,000 a year salary, plus £67,500 pension contributions, and a £45,000 success fee if the dome is opened on time and 10 million people visit it. Her spokesman said: "She was well-prepared for this flak and knew the salary would be contentious. But she thinks she's worth every penny."

She has to organise and select the entertainment inside the dome, raise £190 million in sponsorship, and insure that 10 million people visit the site within a year to raise cash from ticket sales and gate receipts. The spokesman said: "You are talking about something bigger than Euro-Disney or Alton Towers. It will be the biggest event in the world in 2000. The salary is considerably less than the market rate for such events."

It was emphasised that Miss Page was on a fixed-term contract and that her job ended towards the end of 2001. "She has personally been the driving force, keeping it all together."

Her package was also defended by senior Whitehall sources: "She has to achieve a specific result. No-one wants to be remembered as the person who built the Dome that wasn't finished till 2001. Her performance bonus is being judged on that. If someone had come in from the private sector and took this salary, no one would have batted an eyelid."

Miss Page's precise job is a nationalised post created by the last Tory Government. Millennium Central is a limited company whose only shareholder is now Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio.

It is understood that the salary figure was left in the balance until just before the election and that Michael Heseltine, was called in to help broker the final deal with Labour.

Ministers are irritated about the continuing controversy over the Dome, pointing out that it is just one project, with just £450 million of lottery money, while others were receiving £1.6 to £1.8 billion.

ROBIN MAYES

Jennifer Page: in charge of one of the world's largest construction projects

Impresario of the West End to stage Greenwich show

By Valerie Elliott

THE theatre impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh has been drafted in to save the troubled millennium exhibition. The Government will announce today that the creator of the West End shows *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* will produce a musical as the centrepiece of the Greenwich Dome project.

His involvement with the controversial event is a coup for Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who within a week of being charged with rescuing the project has injected new energy and commitment into the millennium celebration.

The appointment is almost certain to pass the "Euan test": Tony Blair said last week that he wanted the Dome project to be so exciting that his teenage son would demand to see it.

Sir Cameron has promised to devise a show which will play for the whole millennium year in a theatre to be called the Drum Arena. He has asked one of his regular designers, John Napier, to help to create a pageant for the new era.

The Cabinet today will also consider ideas from Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, on how to ensure the exhibition has a permanent legacy, is exciting and will not be a drain on the public purse.

Ministers are concerned that the national focus is on Greenwich, which will receive £450 million of National Lottery money, while some £1.8 billion is earmarked for regional attractions. They include the Eden centre at St Austell, Cornwall, the site for the world's largest glasshouse showing flora and fauna from around the globe, and the Lowry Centre on the waterside at Salford.

The success of the Millenium Dome represents a personal challenge for Mr Mandelson. His grandfather, the Labour minister Herbert Morrison, was nicknamed Lord Festival after bringing the 1951 Festival of Britain back from the brink of disaster.

Securicor staff barred after inquest verdict

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

SEVEN custody officers employed by Securicor were suspended from working with prisoners last night after an inquest found that lack of care contributed to the death of an inmate in a court cell.

The inquest was told that Peter Austin, 30, died by hanging in the cells at Brentford Magistrates' Court while awaiting a bail hearing on a burglary charge. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death but said that a lack of care contributed to the death of Mr Austin, a schizophrenic, who had been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Within an hour of the end of the inquest in Hammersmith, west London, the Prison Service said that the seven Securicor staff would be barred from working with prisoners. The certificates that allow them to work with prisoners have been suspended while an inquiry is held to decide whether they should be permanently revoked.

Hugh Taylor, director of administration and services for the Prison Service, said the authority and Securicor deeply regretted the death of Mr Austin, a father of three. "In the light of the inquest verdict and the criticisms of the Securicor staff on duty at the time of Mr Austin's death, the Prison Service is suspending the certificates of seven Securicor staff," he said.

The inquest was told that Mr Austin, the first person to die while in the care of Securicor, was left hanging from a light fitting for almost ten minutes because custody officers thought he was faking a suicide attempt.

It was claimed that, as Mr Austin hung from his T-shirt, one Securicor custody officer said: "Cheeky bugger, he just winked at me." One officer allegedly told Mr Austin's lawyer: "If we are quiet and don't let him know we are here, he will move."

When the officers finally checked his condition, he was pronounced in good health and it was decided that a planned bail hearing should take place outside his cell. The magistrate and a Crown Prosecution Service official were brought to the cell.

The prosecution was told to start outlining its case but when Mr Austin did not move, a senior Securicor officer said he was obliged to check him. Thirty minutes later he was pronounced dead.

While in custody, Mr Austin who had disappeared from a hospital psychiatric ward, had attempted to cut his wrists and was examined by a police surgeon who prescribed a drug for his schizophrenia.

Securicor was awarded a contract to escort prisoners in 1994 and has dealt with more than 300,000 inmates.

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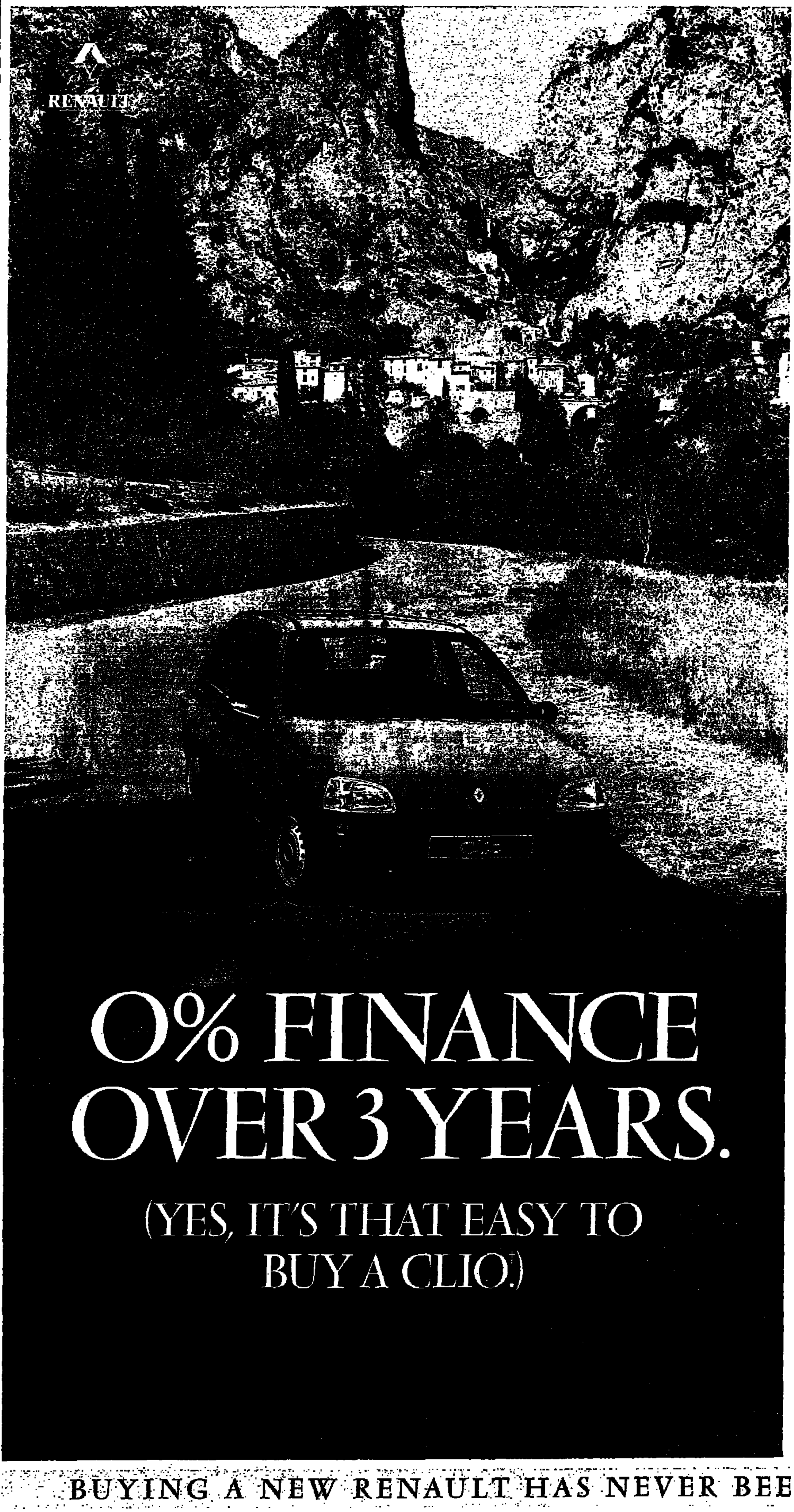

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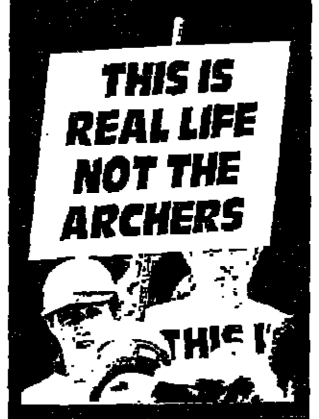
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THIS I'

Rachel Campbell-Johnston:

MY MARCH WITH THE HUNTING LOBBY

weekend

BA plans air defence as cabin crew vote to strike

British Airways management is drafting in staff from abroad as it prepares for a trial of strength with more than 8,000 cabin crew over a pay dispute. Harvey Elliott reports

THE travel plans of millions of holidaymakers and business people could be disrupted this summer after British Airways cabin crew voted overwhelmingly yesterday in favour of strike action.

As leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union planned a series of actions designed to ground the airline, BA management prepared a contingency operation to keep most services operating.

Members of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassa), who voted in favour of industrial action, are concentrated in domestic and European short-haul services with the rival, but smaller, union Cabin Crew 89 dominating the more profitable long-haul routes. BA plans to use management teams, short-haul crew who want to work and cabin staff drafted in from foreign bases to keep the main international routes running to schedule.

The dispute is over a new pay structure designed to increase basic pensionable pay in return for more flexible working. Similar deals have been accepted by nearly all other sections in the airline and BA insists that it will not make anyone worse off and could bring basic pay rises of up to 24 per cent.

BA claimed that only 40 per cent of the total number of cabin crew have voted for strike action. The T&G-backed Bassa claimed that 6,400 members voted for industrial action with only 1,770 against — a 73 per cent majority.

George Ryde, the T&G's national officer for civil aviation, said that the ballot produced the largest-ever response. "Given the pressure of the management on people to vote 'No' this is a remarkable result," he said. "All we are demanding is that the company negotiates with us."

There is long-running resentment among cabin crew over what they regard as "threatening" actions and statements by management. Potential strikers were yesterday warned that they faced the sack and possible financial penalties for any losses BA might incur.

All 12,000 cabin crew members were sent a personal letter pleading with them to ignore any strike call and detailing ways in which they could get to work if they wished. The union is to meet on Monday to decide what action to take.

It will have to give BA seven days' notice of any action, which could take place in mid-July — almost certianly timed to coincide with the peak holiday season after schools have broken up.

If even a handful of the 12,000 cabin crew in the airline walk out some cancellations or delays are inevitable because of CAA safety rules governing the number of cabin crew. BA is determined to face down any strike action and managers are confident that they can keep most flights operating. "There is no strike announced yet so there is no need for any passenger to change travel plans at the moment," a spokesman said.

Bob Ayling, the British Airways chief executive, said last night that he was sad that Bassa had involved its members in a possible strike. "Many of our employees are already coming to us to help them come to work in the event of a strike," he said.

Cabin Crew 89, which says that it has seen its membership rise since the dispute began, accused the T&G of attempting to create "an old-fashioned image of toughness". Bassa insisted that it was reflecting the views of the vast majority of BA cabin crew. "By any democratic test it is clear that the members do not believe BA management when they say they will not lose out in this deal which has been imposed upon them," a spokesman said.

Travel News, pages 42, 43

PETER JORDAN

BA chief executive Bob Ayling and operations director Mike Street, left, yesterday

Bingham calls for inquiry into crime and punishment

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice last night called for a Royal Commission to be set up into the effects of punishment on criminals, particularly young offenders.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the most senior judge in England and Wales, said that it was now widely believed that a "significant number of teenagers were dangerous and a menace to society".

The system of youth justice was under scrutiny but the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts could not solve the problem of juvenile crime on their own. The time was ripe for a "comprehensive review" of crime and punishment either by a Royal Commission, or by reviving the Advisory Council on the Penal System, Lord Bingham said.

Giving the Prison Reform Trust's annual lecture, he said: "The beginning of a new Parliament is the ideal moment for such an initiative." If such a commission could reach "authoritative conclusions" which commanded public and professional respect and were enacted, this Parliament "would earn an assured place in the history of this country".

Lord Bingham said that there was a "small but identifiable core" of young offenders whose criminal conduct called for serious punitive sentences. "Nothing else will afford the public adequate protection, or satisfy the public that grossly anti-social behaviour is adequately punished." However, he added, "We should never lose sight of the human suffering so often involved."

Lord Bingham expressed support for the review that the Government is undertaking into the youth justice system, and for its moves to expedite the courts' handling of young offenders — provided that the legitimate interests of defendants and the independence of judges and magistrates were safeguarded. He also called for measures to be taken to divert young people from crime at the earliest opportunity, and to tackle the root causes of offending.

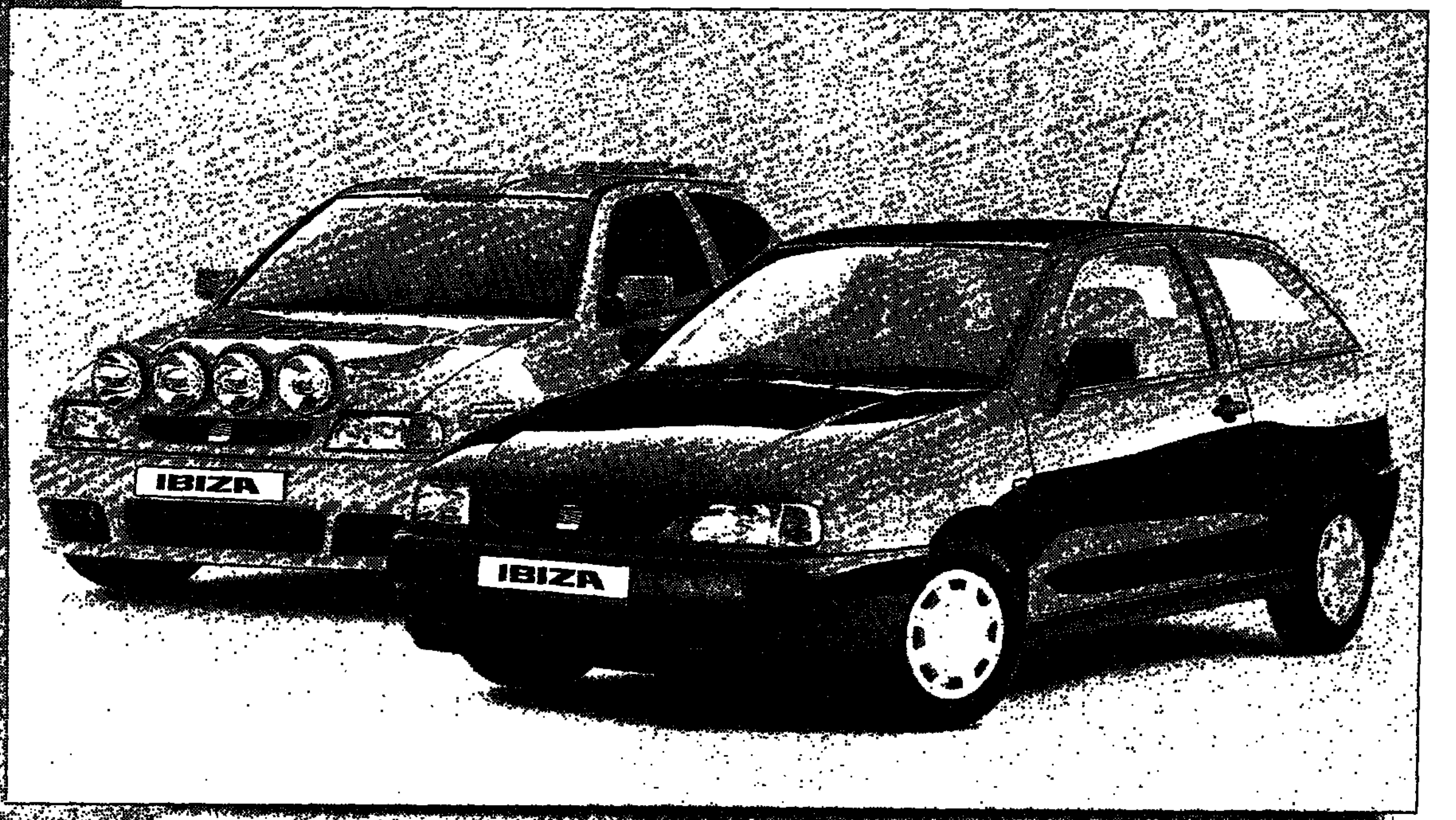
"By the time teenagers appear before the courts as persistent or serious offenders ... the opportunity to divert them into more constructive and satisfying ways of life may well have been lost. That is why, in my opinion, every encouragement and support should be given to schemes aimed to save young offenders from being irretrievably sucked into the criminal process."

The factors which predisposed people to criminal activity were well known, he said. They related to family background, schooling, poverty and other social conditions, and when there were a number of adverse indicators, the chance was greater that a young person would become a persistent offender, he said. When offending began at a young age, the risk of a settled pattern of delinquency was correspondingly greater.

It followed "that the public interest is best served by effectively addressing these problems which (if it can be done) will save the victims of crime much needless misery". This would allow young people to lead constructive and fulfilling lives, rather than offending, and the public purse would be relieved of much of the cost of handling young criminals, who otherwise would go on to do more harm as adults.

Letters 23

From the victor the spoils



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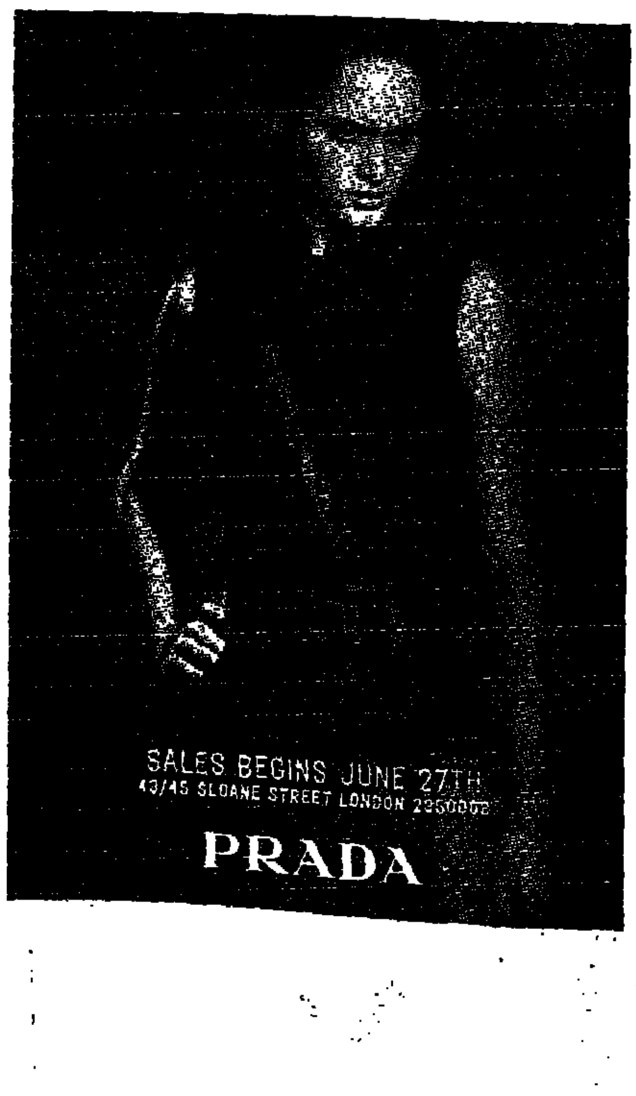

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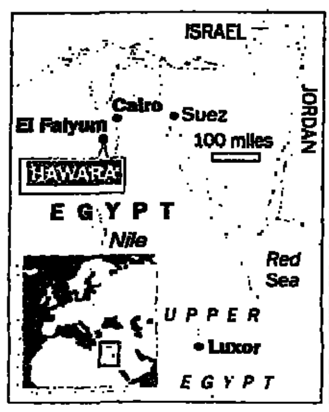
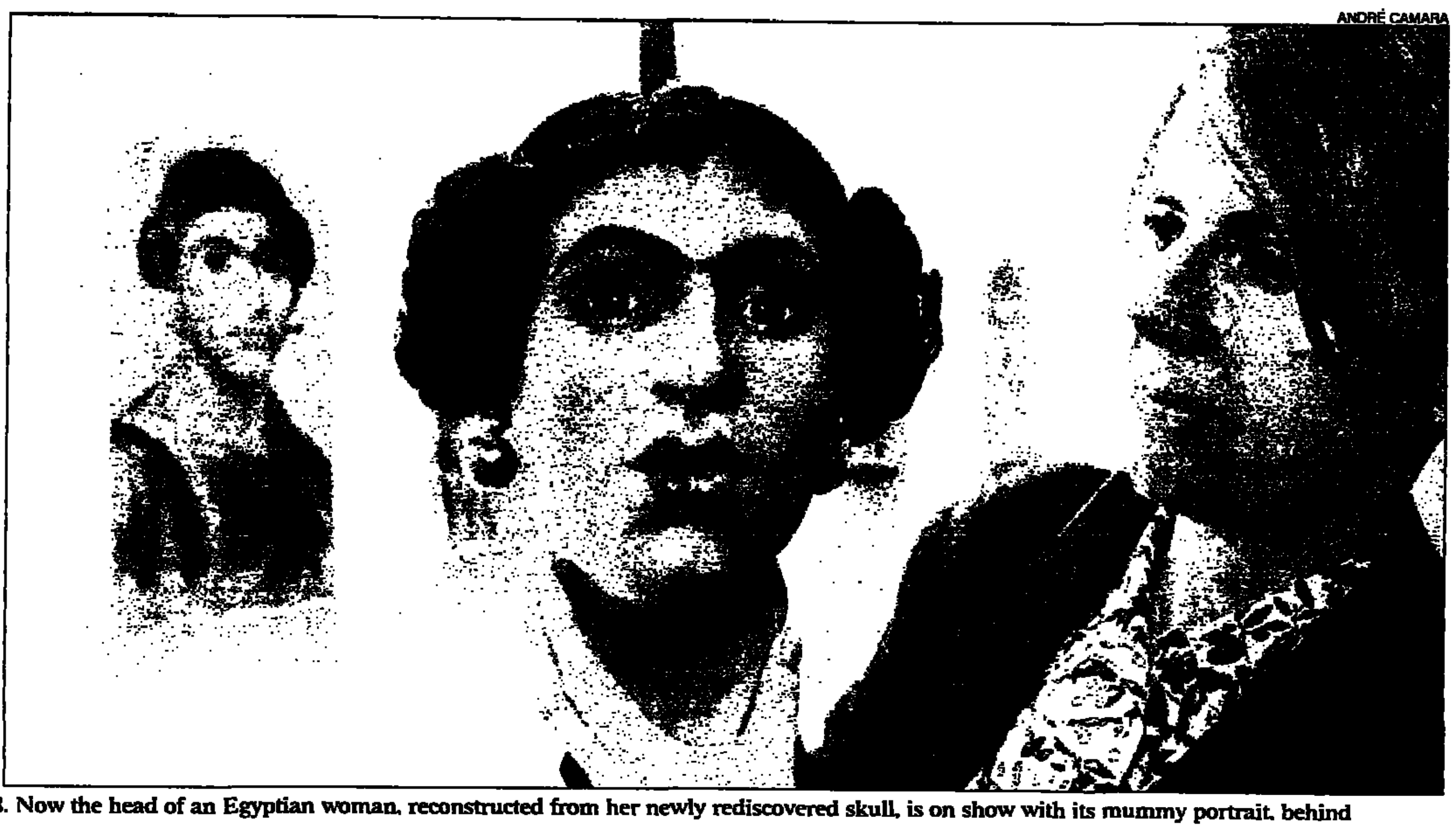
Face saver for the archaeologists who lost their heads

Peter Foster reports as science reconstructs look of past



ANDRÉ CAMARA



Sir Flinders Petrie made his Hawara find in 1888. Now the head of an Egyptian woman, reconstructed from her newly rediscovered skull, is on show with its mummy portrait, behind

THE faces of a high-ranking Egyptian man and a woman who died almost 2,000 years ago have been reconstructed from their skulls. The work by a scientist who helps police to identify bodies has shown that the painted portraits on their mummies were realistic depictions.

It has followed the discovery of a mix-up over the work of the great archaeologist Sir Flinders Petrie. He found the skulls and the mummy portraits in 1888 in a burial pit at Hawara, southwest of Cairo, but the find was somehow broken up in Britain. The portraits have been at the National Portrait Gallery, but no one knew what happened to the skulls.

They were rediscovered after a chance encounter between Paul Roberts, Curator of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, and Meredith Thompson, an archeology student at University College London. Dr Roberts mentioned the lost skulls in a lecture. Ms Thompson revealed that she was studying some of them for her undergraduate dissertation. They were lying in boxes in a London museum which was unaware of their real importance, although they were clearly labelled in Petrie's handwriting. The identity of the museum is not being revealed.

The reconstruction of the skulls was commissioned by the British Museum, which is staging an exhibition of more than 200 mummy portraits dating from 1st and 3rd century Roman Egypt. Richard Neave, Artist in Medicine and Life Science at the University of Manchester, was given the skulls to work on, but was not shown the portraits which belonged to them, so that he could not be influenced by them.

He spent two weeks painstakingly rebuilding the faces in clay before casting the heads in wax and bronze, with the help of John Prag, Keeper of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Manchester Museum. When the work was finished, the sculpted heads were compared with the portraits and found to bear an almost exact resemblance. Mr Neave's experience includes work for the police, and reconstructing the head of Lindow Man, an Iron Age man found in a peat bog near Manchester in 1984.

Dr M.L. Bierbrier, Assistant Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, said that the project had clearly shown that the mummy portraits were intended as realistic depictions of their subjects. More than 1,000 of the portraits, painted on limewood, have survived.

Virtually nothing is known about the lives of the two people whose faces were so dramatically reconstructd by Mr Neave. Hawara was a provincial town roughly equivalent to Bath in Roman Britain, and the mummies are thought to be of local nobility and high-ranking soldiers.

Their presence in a pit suggests that they had been moved from their original burial-places to clear space for subsequent generations of dead.

Petrie imported 81 portraits, 12 complete mummies and 65 skulls. Nineteen of the skulls have now been found. The location of the remaining 46 remains unknown. According to Dr Bierbrier, Petrie had a fascination with heads.

He kept well over 60 in a special room at his house which he called the "skullery" and, before he died in Jerusalem, he asked for his head to be returned to England in a hatbox.

☐ *Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt* is at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, until July 20. For more information, ring 0171-580 1788.

Crown on display after 4,000 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RARE Egyptian crown, kept in a sitting-room by a family who did not realise its value, went on show to the public for the first time yesterday.

The crown is thought to have been taken from the tomb of Queen Mentuhotep, who died 4,000 years ago, and there is only one other like it. The owner, a businessman from London, discovered its rarity a year ago when it was seen by an expert.

The crown has been loaned for 12 months to an exhibition at Highclere Castle, the family home of the Earl of Carnarvon, grandson of the 5th earl who helped Howard Carter to discover the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Lord Carnarvon, who is the Queen's racehorse trainer, said the silver crown was part of Egyptian displays at the castle to mark the 75th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. "It is an immense pleasure and privilege to have this beautiful and rare diadem at the castle," he said.

The burial crown is thought to have been taken from the bandaged head of the queen in her tomb near the Valley of the Kings, where Tutankhamun's tomb was found in 1922. It is believed to have been brought to Britain by the grandparents of the businessman who owns it.

Adrian Wiley, curator of the Highclere museum, near Newbury, Berkshire, said the owner had not been offered enough money to part with it but wanted it to be put on show in a museum.

Fit for a queen: diadem was kept in sitting-room

Officer is jailed for RAF theft

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER RAF officer who was in charge of finances at the largest base in Britain was jailed for three years yesterday for stealing $60,000 from the service.

Oxford Crown Court was told that, after nine years as a captain in the Army, Donald Hadley, 41, joined the RAF as a flight lieutenant. He ran the accounts office at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire until he left the service last August.

After three bags of new dollar notes destined for Germany went missing, police discovered he had bought a new Volkswagen Golf for £17,000 with US dollars, and a further $20,000 was found hidden in the kitchen at his home in Birmingham.

Hadley had denied burglary and theft.

Fat risk to small babies

BY NIGEL HAWKES

SMALL babies tend to grow up "apple-shaped", a study in Southampton has shown.

This may help explain the link established by David Barker and his team at Southampton University between low birthweight and the increased risk of illnesses such as heart disease later on. In a study presented last week at the European Congress on Obesity in Dublin and reported in *New Scientist*, of 250 adolescent girls, Professor Barker found that the lower their birthweight, the greater their tendency to accumulate fat around the middle, rather than on the hips and thighs. Preliminary results showed that the same was true of boys.

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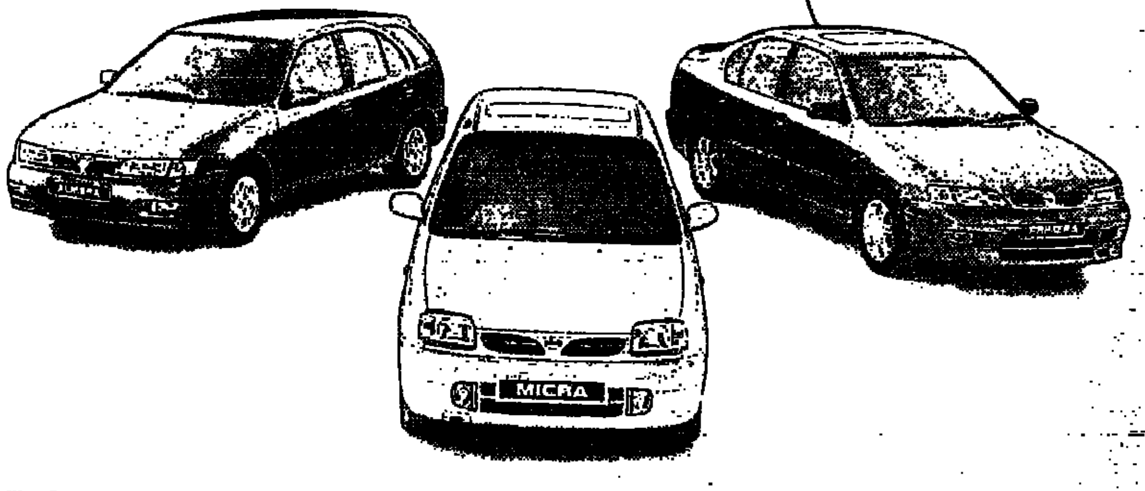

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Publican banned after train kills alcopop boy

Under-age drinker's death brings more calls for controls, says **Richard Duce**

A PUB landlord and his wife were yesterday fined more than £7,000 and lost their licence after selling alcopop to a 14-year-old boy who later died under the wheels of a train.

Graham Bailey, from Aughton, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, had been to a friend's fifteenth birthday party last November when he was among a group of teenagers asked to leave the Swan Hotel in Scarisbrick, near Southport, after they became rowdy. He was crossing the nearby railway line at an unmanned crossing when he was hit by a train.

Test later showed he had drunk enough to be three times over the drink-drive limit. Magistrates in Ormskirk were told that the youths had been supplied with Hooch — an alcoholic lemonade — lager and spirits.

Edward Moorcroft, 48, the licensee, and his wife, Jeanette, 52, admitted a total of 18 offences between them of serving alcohol to underage teenagers and allowing children under 14 in a bar. Moorcroft was fined £6,410 and his wife £1,410 by Ormskirk magistrates, who described events as a flagrant abuse of the licensing laws. The dead boy's parents may now bring a civil suit against the pair.

Last night Alcohol Concern made fresh calls for controls on the way alcopops were being marketed. Their spokesman Lee Lixenberg said: "We want a much tougher regulatory system for the drinks trade to abide by, which has the full weight of the law.

"Realistically, there is often a very thin line between an 18-year-old and someone much younger, which is why we want controls over alcopops so they are no longer attracting those under 18." The people at the party in the Swan were aged between 13 and 19 and police said that the parents of some of the youngsters committed offences by buying drinks for children. They had been officially cautioned.

Graham's parents were not at the party. They spoke last night of their anger that Moorcroft and his wife let their only son drink. Olive Bailey, 40, said: "Graham was a bright, popular boy and a very keen sportsman. He had lots of friends and was normally very sensible. There is no way that he should have been served with alcohol in a pub.

"On the night of his death he telephoned me from outside the Swan to say that he was all right. That was the last time that I ever spoke to him.

"I could accept it if Graham had got away with being served a glass of lager but in fact he was drinking all night. Even though Moorcroft has lost his licence we are very bitter and are consulting solicitors over whether to bring a civil action."

Graham, a third-year pupil at Ormskirk Grammar School, was particularly gifted in languages and planned to study French and Spanish university. His father, also Graham, 44, said: "We are waiting to hear our solicitor's view. If he advises that civil action is possible then we will go ahead. We are prepared to lose everything to get justice."

The officer in charge of licensing for South Lancashire, Sergeant Geoff Sumner, said the sentences were the heaviest he had known for liquor offences. He added: "The sales of alcopop should be more controlled. I don't see how anyone can say they are targeted at anyone other than those under 18."

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Diane Modahl yesterday. Her case was said to be "not sustainable in law"

Modahl's damages action 'doomed'

THE runner Diane Modahl faced a renewed attempt by the British Athletic Federation yesterday to block the damages action she launched against it after clearing her name of drugs allegations.

The federation was challenging a High Court ruling a year ago that the case could go ahead, despite defence arguments that it was doomed to failure. Modahl, 31, was at the Court of Appeal with her husband and coach, Vicente, to hear David Pannick, QC, for the federation, argue that her claim was "not sustainable in law".

The athlete is suing to recover the £480,000 she spent on legal and medical costs in challenging a four-year drug ban imposed by the BAF after tests carried out in Lisbon in 1994. She seeks a similar figure in punitive damages over the way her case was handled. Judgment was reserved.

Irish school bars girl who sneezed in English

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLGIRL on an Irish language course in the west of Ireland was expelled for using English to apologise for sneezing.

Michelle Hartnet, 17, who was on the first of her three weeks at Colaiste na bhFiann in Rosmuck, Co Galway, sneezed while having breakfast and quietly said "Pardon me." She was expelled for speaking in English and put on a train back to Dublin. Miss Hartnet said that she had arrived home in tears.

"I was sick and humiliated. I have spent the past 17 years trying to remember to say 'Pardon me' when I sneeze, and it just slipped out in English. I did not shout it out but said it very quietly. I just forgot."

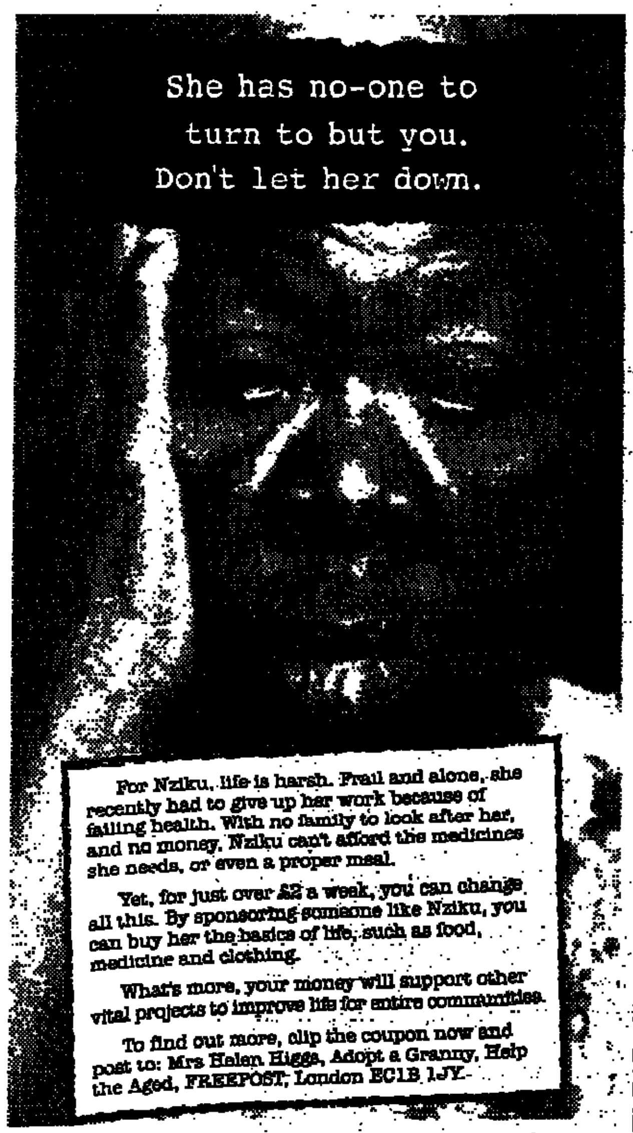
Every summer, thousands of schoolchildren attend colleges in Gaelic-speaking areas to improve their grasp of the language, which all pupils must study. Miss Hartnet met the £280 fees with earnings from a weekend job.

She said: "I was so excited about going and really keen on learning Irish. But now I am thinking twice about it. It is a dying language and the Irish speakers should be encouraging people to learn, not frightening the life out of them." About 4 per cent of people in the Republic speak Irish as their first language. Interest in the language has surged in recent years.

The college was accused yesterday of being too strict. However, it said that pupils were fully aware before joining the course that English was banned under all circumstances.

A spokesman declined to discuss the case of Miss Hartnet as her mother has threatened to sue to secure the return of her daughter's money. The spokesman said: "English is not allowed. They are the rules. There is no leniency."

☐ Irish people suffer discrimination in Britain, where they are often viewed as lazy and stupid, heavy drinkers and fraudsters, according to a report published by the Commission for Racial Equality yesterday. Some British people automatically assume that Irish people support the IRA, the report's author, Mary Hickman, said, adding that such assumptions were "deeply wounding".



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T 26/6

Belfast girl takes tea at No 10

The Belfast schoolgirl who wrote to the Prime Minister pleading for peace in Northern Ireland took tea with him at Downing Street yesterday. Tony Blair had invited Margaret Gibney, 12, there after she wrote that she had only ever known one year of peace. Mr Blair cited her letter during interviews on American television. Margaret, a pupil at Mount Gilbert Community College, had written the letter as part of a school project. She also asked Mr Blair to nominate his favourite peace poem. He told her in a letter that he had chosen *The Green Fields of France*, by Eric Bogle, who died in the First World War. He presented Margaret, of the Shankill Road, with a recording of a setting of the poem by the folk group the Fureys.

Margaret Gibney with the Prime Minister at Downing Street yesterday

Labour IRA guns offer puts Adams on the spot

If the Sinn Fein president fails to convince IRA hardliners of Britain's good faith, he may have to split from them, reports **Nicholas Watt**

TONY BLAIR'S initiative on Northern Ireland has turned the tables on Sinn Fein and removed any excuse republicans may have had for accusing Britain of obstructing the peace process.

At a stroke the Prime Minister has softened Britain's stance on the arms issue and guaranteed Sinn Fein a place at substantive political negotiations before any weapons have been handed over.

Sinn Fein and IRA leaders, who held a series of meetings in advance of yesterday's statement, will have to decide whether to take the constitutional road or to risk isolation by returning to the bomb and bullet.

Throughout the past three years of the peace process there has been much talk about "decision days" and "moments of truth", but Gerry Adams knows that he faces a defining moment. Pat Doherty, the Sinn Fein vice-president who is highly respected within the IRA, responded favourably to the new Anglo-Irish paper when he said that it removed the "decommissioning obstacle".

Whether the IRA decides to follow his positive remarks with a ceasefire will depend on two factors. First, the Sinn Fein leadership will have to be satisfied that Britain is offering real talks which will fundamentally alter the shape of Northern Ireland.

Second, if the likes of Mr Adams are convinced of Mr Blair's intentions, they will have to pass the "Keenan test" and convince republican hardliners, such as Brian Keenan, the convicted Belfast terrorist, that Mr Blair has finally convened the long awaited "all-party peace talks". If Mr Adams fails to pass the Keenan test, he may have to split with the republican hardliners as the price for joining constitutional talks.

In their assessment of the Prime Minister's offer, Mr Adams and his fellow Sinn Fein leaders will be encouraged that they will be invited to the multiparty talks within six weeks of an IRA ceasefire. Republicans were infuriated last November when John Major refused to say how long he would wait after a ceasefire before allowing Sinn Fein to join the talks.

Sinn Fein will also be pleased that Mr Blair has set a deadline of next May for the talks. Republicans felt that the last Government was prepared to let Unionists string out the talks.

Sinn Fein's positive reaction to Mr Blair will be tempered by doubts about the Anglo-Irish paper on decommissioning. Even though the paper says that decommissioning will happen only in parallel with substantive negotiations, Sinn Fein will be concerned that republicans may be forced to disarm before real progress has been made.

Republicans have dismissed the Stormont talks as a "decommissioning conference" and they will be worried by Mr Blair's insistence that decommissioning must take place once the full talks begin.

Sinn Fein's fears about decommissioning will be seized on by republican hardliners who believe that Britain and the Unionists want to use decommissioning to force the IRA to surrender. Mr Keenan, one of the most inflexible republican leaders who was convicted in the 1970s for his part in the IRA's mainland campaign, spelt out the hardliners' views on decommissioning in a speech at the republican plot at the Milltown Cemetery in West Belfast in May last year.

Keenan: wants to know if talks offer is genuine

To applause from the crowd, Mr Keenan said: "Do not be confused about the politics of the situation. The only decommissioning that will take place will be the British state in Ireland."

If Mr Adams overcomes his doubts about Mr Blair's offer and decides to follow the political path, he will have to convince the likes of Mr Keenan that there is a fresh opportunity for effective all-party talks. Hardliners are deeply sceptical about pursuing a political path because they say that the last ceasefire in 1994 failed to produce the much-vaunted talks.

If Mr Adams is encouraged by Mr Blair, he will have to convince the hardliners that conditions are even more favourable than in 1994, when it appeared that Washington, Dublin and the SDLP would put pressure on Britain to convene talks.

Republican leaders have been holding a series of meeting with activists throughout Ireland to brief them on their tactics, though they have stopped short of indicating whether there will be a ceasefire.

One republican in the notoriously hardline area of South Armagh said that the process was similar to the consultations before the 1994 ceasefire. The man, who did not want to be named, said: "Adams will have a hard time to convince the men with the guns down here. They want absolutely clear guarantees that the British will not mess around with a ceasefire in the way they did last time."

As if to drive home their message, IRA supporters in the area have erected a poster extolling the success of Richardson fertiliser in bombs. Across the poster, the terrorists have scrawled: "Results, Gerry!"

Talks timetable that may lift obstacles to peace

BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR set out a rigid timetable for the multi-party talks yesterday to reassure Sinn Fein that no party would be able to block progress.

In the Government's aide-memoire, which was sent to Sein Fein on June 13, republicans were told that they would be invited to a plenary session of the talks six weeks after an unequivocal IRA ceasefire.

The paper said that Sinn Fein would be invited to the talks by the end of July if the IRA declared a ceasefire in mid-June. At the plenary session Sinn Fein would have to sign up to six principles of non-violence outline by Senator George Mitchell in his decommissioning report.

In the absence of an IRA ceasefire, the Anglo-Irish decommissioning paper yesterday said that political parties should conclude the opening plenary session by the end of July. The talks would adjourn for the summer and resume on 15 September to begin negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland on inter-party relations within Northern Ireland; relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, and relations between London and Dublin.

In the meantime an independent body would be established to oversee the decommissioning of terrorist arms. This would report to a sub-committee of the main talks on progress on decommissioning on both sides of the Irish border.

The main plenary session of the talks would review progress on decommissioning and on the substantive talks every two months. The talks would conclude in May 1998.

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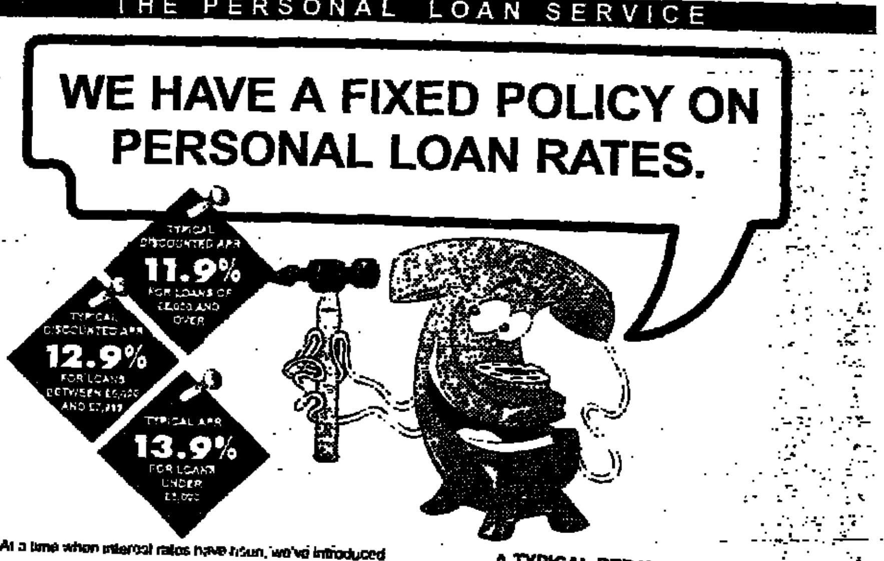
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Blair will head 'holy trinity' of TUC speakers

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TONY BLAIR is to address this year's annual TUC conference, demonstrating that the trade unions are back in from the cold. The shift in their fortunes will also be emphasised by speeches to the conference by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the head of Britain's main employers' body, the CBI.

Welcoming what some union leaders are dubbing the "holy Trinity" of speakers at this year's conference, John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said that the Prime Minister's visit was a "further indication of the new spirit of partnership that has marked this Government's early days."

TUC leaders announced Mr Blair's plan yesterday. He will be the first Prime Minister to address a TUC conference since 1978 when James Callaghan surprised union and political leaders with his decision against calling an autumn general election. Widespread strikes followed in the 1978-79 "winter of discontent" leading to Labour's election defeat in May 1979 and 18 years of Tory government.

Some union leaders feared that Mr Blair, who insists that the trade unions will be treated with fairness but no favours, would snub the TUC by deciding not to speak to this year's conference, to be held in Brighton in September. Traditionally Labour leaders address the annual gathering every other year, and Mr Blair last spoke in 1995.

The Prime Minister has decided to set his stamp on the autumn party political conference season by giving a speech to the TUC a fortnight before he addresses Labour's annual conference in Brighton.

Mr Blair is expected to welcome the unions' support for a number of the Government's initiatives, including its welfare-to-work programme, which will be the centrepiece of next week's Budget. John Monks joined business leaders at 11 Downing Street yesterday to hear Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, appeal for them to support the programme.

Mr Blair is also expected to reiterate that the unions must not confuse their own role with that of the Government. He is likely, too, to highlight the tightness of public spending, which will be interpreted by the unions as a warning on pay.

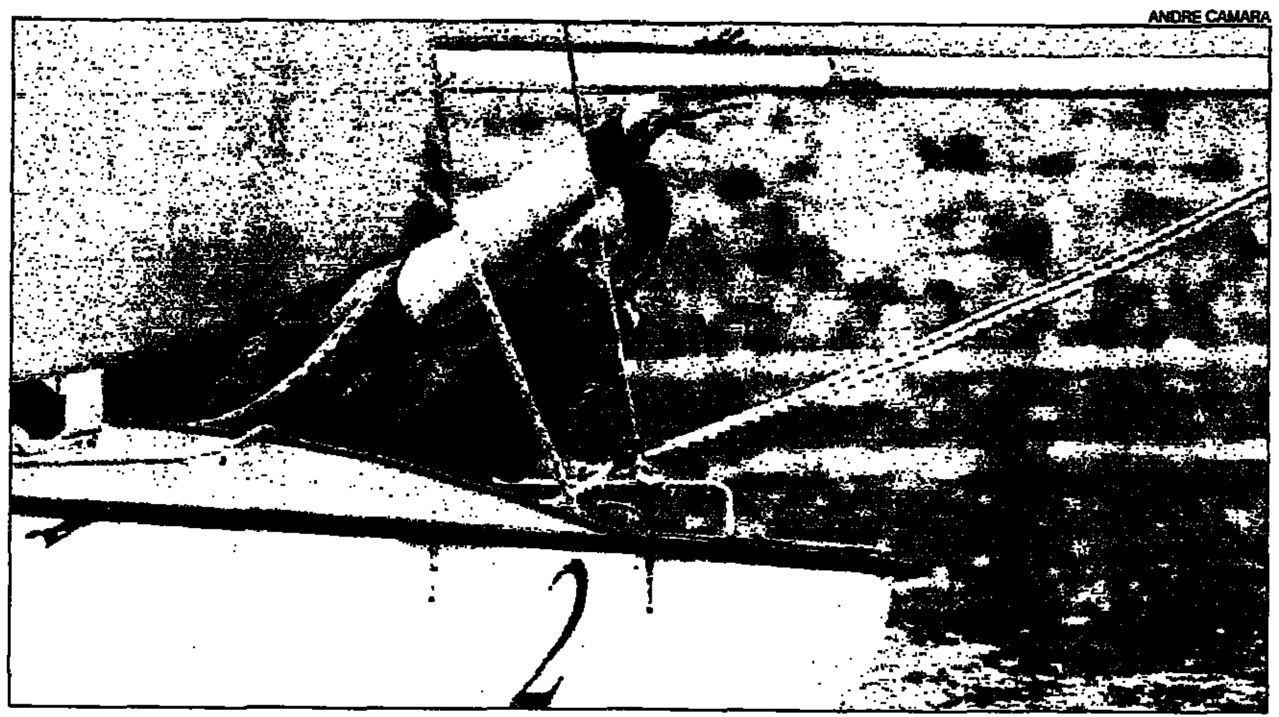
However, the unions' newfound place closer to the heart of policymaking will be emphasised by a speech to the TUC from George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr Carey will address the TUC on the same day as Mr Blair.

The TUC's hopes of so-called social partnership — European-style closer dialogue with business — will be strengthened with a speech to the TUC by Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. He is expected to spell out the readiness of business to work with unions on a range of common issues.

Mr Turner's predecessor, Howard Davies, now Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, became the first CBI leader to address the TUC in 1992.

The TUC's announcements coincided with the less encouraging news for the unions of a decline in membership. Total TUC membership, which stood at more than 13 million when Labour last left office, fell last year to 6.7 million. Although the annual fall of 1.2 per cent marks a slowdown in the rate of decline, membership is still falling at a time when employment is rising, opening up a widening gap between the number of trade unionists and the number of jobs.

The trade unions are trying to counter this by training up to 20 new organisers at a TUC Training Academy. The move, which is aimed at boosting recruitment, was agreed by the governing general council yesterday.



ANDRE CAMARA

Tory MP Peter Bottomley sailing to victory yesterday in a race on the Thames between the Commons and the Lords

Ministers rethink 'tartan tax' plan

By Gillian Bowditch and Jill Sherman

LABOUR is having to rethink its plans to give a Scottish Parliament the powers to vary the basic rate of tax by 3p after realising that the proposal is an administrative minefield.

Party sources made clear that there was no intention of dropping what the Tories call the tartan tax, or watering down the powers. But they conceded that original plans to give Scotland tax-varying powers needed to be revised to take into account changes since the scheme was proposed several years ago. Many fewer Scots now pay the basic rate, meaning a drop in the expected revenue of about £450 million.

Tony Blair has already said that Labour would not use its tax-raising powers during a first Scottish parliament. But the party has to come up with a workable plan for future parliaments before the referendum this September.

A government committee is now reviewing the plan so that details can be finalised in time for the White Paper on devolution expected to be published next month. Yesterday the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, said: "There is no retreat. We hold to our commitment. The Parliament will have the power to vary income tax around the basic rate."

Defeate Tory ma stand fo Uxbridg

By Polly Newton

THE former Transport M ter John Watts is being see a leading contender to the Uxbridge by-election the Tories.

The seat was left vacan the death of Sir Mic Shersby a week after election. His majority was

Mr Watts, 50, lost Rea East to Labour by 3,795 v He has expressed his int in becoming the candida Uxbridge and friends sa would be well placed bec he knows the area. He w member of the counci nearby Hillingdon for 11 y and was chairman of bridge Conservative As ation between 1973 and 19

The association has no drawn up a shorlist and t is no timetable for selec although a decision is ex ed next month. No date been set for the by-electio

Labour's candidate is drew Slaughter, 36, a b ter. Keith Kerr, a ge manager for British Air will stand again for Liberal Democrats.

Labour suspends two accused MPs

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

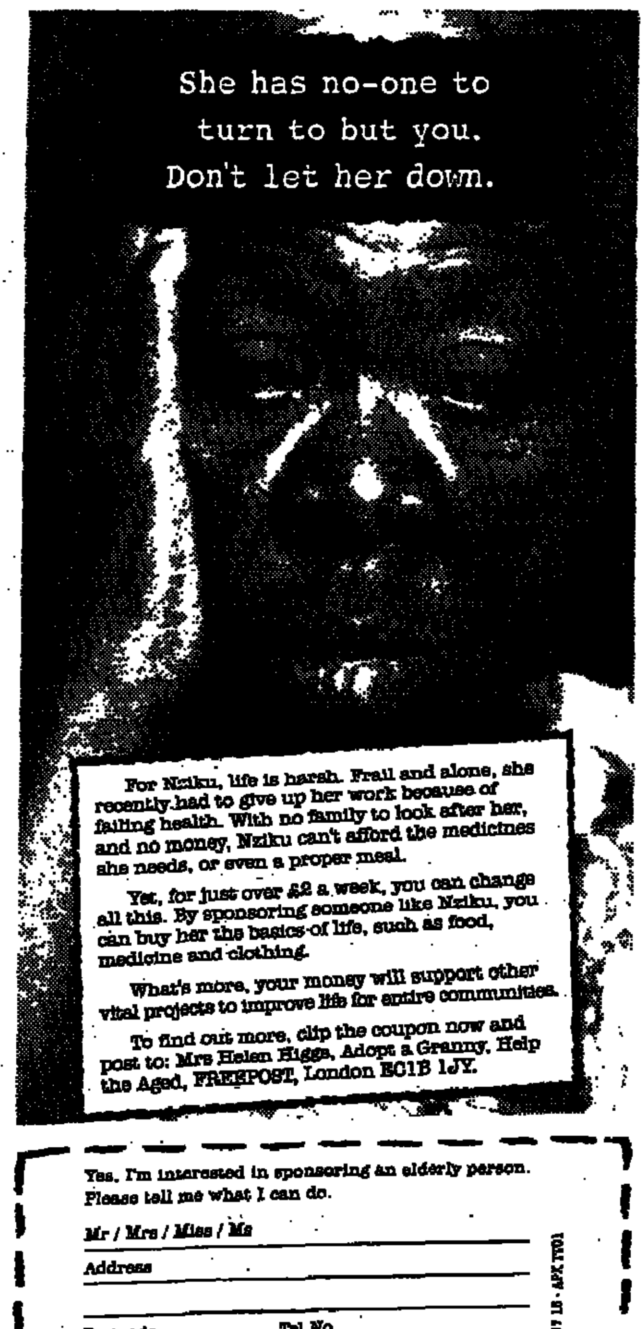
LABOUR'S ruling body yesterday suspended two MPs from holding party office in a further sign of Tony Blair's determination to take a tough line on financial "sleaze".

Mohammed Sarwar, the Labour MP alleged to have bribed a rival candidate, and Bob Wareing, the MP alleged to have failed to declare a financial matter in the Register of Members' Interests, have effectively been banished from the Commons. They have been suspended from the parliamentary party and told to be absent except when summoned for key votes.

The two MPs are also to be referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, to see whether he wishes to take the matter further.

Mr Sarwar, MP for Glasgow Govan, is also the subject of a police investigation but has always insisted that he will be cleared of paying an election rival £5,000 to fight a losing campaign against him.

Mr Wareing, MP for Liverpool West Derby, was suspended from the PLP last Wednesday. Yesterday the National Executive Committee went further and suspended him from holding office or representing the party. Mr Wareing, who is alleged to have accepted payments from a firm in Serbia, has denied any wronggoing.



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Halford victory over bugged office phones

PAUL COUSANS

Alison Halford celebrating yesterday's European court ruling on her right to telephone privacy

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

ALISON HALFORD, the former assistant chief constable who waged a long battle over sex discrimination, won a European Court case yesterday over the tapping of her telephone, which could herald new privacy laws in Britain.

In an unanimous decision, the nine judges of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg upheld a complaint by Miss Halford that calls from her office in Merseyside, where she held her post, had been intercepted in breach of her right to privacy. They also ruled that Miss Halford, who ten years ago was the highest-ranking woman police officer in Britain, had no avenue for her complaint. They awarded her £10,000 compensation.

The verdict will force the Government to review phonetapping laws to comply with the the Human Rights Convention, to which Britain is a signatory. In particular it will prompt a review of how the law should protect the privacy of employees, as Miss Halford's calls were made from her workplace.

The civil rights organisation Liberty, which backed Miss Halford, said it was an important case which would require changes to the law. John Wadham, Liberty's director, said: "Senior police officers were spying on one of their own employees while she was fighting a sex discrimination case against them. The case establishes a clear right to privacy for employees and the Government will now need to draft legislation to protect this right." Any new laws should encompass more than telephone tapping at work, he said. They should embrace e-mail and other electronic communication.

Yesterday's victory for Miss Halford marks the end of a six-year battle which began when she claimed she been passed over for promotion in the Merseyside force nine times because of her sex. She launched a discrimination claim in 1990 and alleged that police then ordered the tapping to try to discredit her.

Government lawyers accepted that there was a "reasonable likelihood" that Miss Halford's office telephones had been bugged after a dispute over her promotion prospects. But they said that any such taps were not a breach of her rights because the telephones were government property.

But the Strasbourg judges said that Miss Halford had a "reasonable expectation" of privacy in making and receiving calls at work and there was no evidence that she had been warned that her telephone might be bugged. The court ruled that the taps were probably ordered in connection with her discrimination claims. But it rejected claims that Miss Halford's telephone at her home in Caldy, on the Wirral, had been bugged.

Her discrimination case was resolved with a six-figure settlement in 1992, after her suspension on full pay amid allegations of misconduct concerning claims that she swam in her underwear.

But the Interception of Communications Tribunal threw out Miss Halford's separate case in which she claimed that the Special Branch bugged her office at Merseyside police headquarters and tapped her home telephone on the orders of the Home Secretary.

The tribunal said it was satisfied there had been no contravention of the Interception of Communications Act, and refused to clarify whether the interceptions had taken place or whether they had been authorised by the Home Secretary.

The Home Office wrote to Miss Halford's MP saying that eavesdropping by Merseyside Police on their own telephone system was outside the scope of the Act and would not require a warrant. Now a review of the interception of calls by employers is likely.

Miss Halford's solicitor, Robin Makin, said she was delighted by the outcome. "The principle has been established that an improper invasion of her privacy occurred. It will have tremendous implications. She is extremely delighted to have had such a tremendous victory."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is considering the court's ruling. "He is looking carefully at whether or not any changes are needed to the law," a Home Office spokeswoman said.

The Merseyside Chief Constable, Sir James Sharples, said: "No agency can ever confirm or deny [whether telephones are tapped], because to do so would undermine the effectiveness of the technique.

"The central issue, it seems, is that Miss Halford accepted that English law does not prohibit intercepts of office telephones. She therefore took the Government to the European Court to ascertain whether that omission was a breach of European law.

"The European Court has concluded that interception of office telephones would be a breach of privacy and that existing English law does not cover such telephones, but ought to. I believe the Government is now considering the implications of the judgments."

Chief Constable urged to explain his action

By Russell Jenkins

LAWYERS for Alison Halford yesterday called on Sir James Sharples, the Chief Constable of Merseyside Police, to make an immediate public explanation of his conduct during her battle over sex discrimination. They said his actions brought discredit to the force.

Miss Halford said: "Rather than offering a compromise, the Chief Constable of Merseyside embarked upon a ruthless and covert campaign designed to discredit me, my reputation and my professional career. I have already published my concerns that certain tactics utilised amounted to extremely improper behaviour.

"For a very senior officer to stoop so low as to eavesdrop on a member of his team, to gather material to use against me in my discrimination fight, was a serious matter.

"With the help of my lawyers, I have achieved a remarkable victory both personally and for the general public who are given scant protection to the right of privacy.

"I have proved comprehensively that I was under the command of an unethical chief officer who had a total veto over my career advancement," she said. "His behaviour fell far short of what the police and public expects of its servants."

Miss Halford hailed the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights as a "remarkable victory". She said at her lawyers' office in Liverpool that she was alerted to the telephone taps by a "tinkling" on the line.

Miss Halford, a Labour county councillor in Flintshire and a member of the North Wales Police Authority, apologised to taxpayers for the estimated £3 million to £4 million which she believes it cost to fight her case. Justice was important, she said.

She condemned as "weasel words" Sir James's terse statement that no agency could confirm or deny such matters as telephone tapping because such a move would undermine the effectiveness of the technique.

Husband fights 'warts and all' book on murdered journalist

PA

Graham Turley with his wife and son. He is angry that he was not consulted

By Audrey Magee
Ireland Correspondent

THE husband of the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin says he is appalled that a "warts and all" account of her work is to be published later this year.

Graham Turley, whose wife was shot dead a year ago today as she was investigating a Dublin criminal gang, is trying to stop people co-operating with the author, Emily O'Reilly, a well-known Irish journalist.

Ms Guerin, 33, was heralded as a hero outside Ireland, receiving a number of posthumous awards, including British journalist of the year. Many of the awards were accepted on her behalf by her son, Cathal.

In Ireland, however, opinion has been divided on whether Ms Guerin was a brave journalist exposing the criminal underworld or a naive woman who did not realise the danger she was in. Many people, including her brother, James, feel her death could have been easily prevented if her newspaper, *The Sunday Independent*, had taken action to protect her and "rein her in".

Ms O'Reilly, political editor of the *Sunday Business Post*, said that the truth had to be told about Ms Guerin and her relationship with the newspaper. "The public telling of Veronica's story and the private telling are very different. In the past year, anybody who put their head above the parapet and tried to question her way of working, or the newspaper she worked for, was shot down.

"Veronica was not a saint. She was a very public figure who died in a very public manner and questions need to be asked and answered."

While describing Ms Guerin as an exceptional journalist, Ms O'Reilly will portray the reckless and obsessive side of her character and seek to discover whether she might have been used by her newspaper to increase sales.

Mr Turley said Ms O'Reilly, whose journalism is well regarded in Ireland, was not a close friend of his wife and knew little about her. "I am disgusted that this individual has gone ahead with this book without contacting me or various other members of Veronica's family. I stated last December that I did not want any books or films to be produced on Veronica in such a short time after her death."

Ms Guerin interviewed most of the Dublin criminals who lived in open splendour on the proceeds of illegal drug dealing. Despite being shot in the leg in 1995, she carried on with her investigative work. Then in June last year two men on a motorbike pulled up beside her car at traffic lights on the outskirts of Dublin and shot her five times.

The killing prompted a clampdown on crime and, in the ensuing 12 months, the murder rate has fallen by half and more than 100 firearms have been seized. About £1 million in assets have been confiscated, including houses and cash stashed in bank accounts in Ireland and abroad. Almost 200 people have been arrested and leading criminal figures have fled the country. Assistant Commissioner Tony Hickey said: "There is no doubt that the investigation has been a success. The rate of crime is down dramatically."

Paul Ward, 32, from Dublin, has been charged with Ms Guerin's murder. Patrick Holland was arrested and charged with drug offences.

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Briton who killed Bosnian refuses offer of freedom

A FORMER Royal Marine offered a conditional discharge from his three-year sentence in Sarajevo prison has opted to stay behind bars, demanding a pardon or retrial from the Bosnian state.

A former marine claims that he has been mistreated by the state that he fought for, writes **Tom Walker** from Sarajevo

Cy Mackintosh was found guilty by a military tribunal last year of the manslaughter of his battalion commander in the Bosnian Green Berets. He is the only Westerner known to be in jail in Bosnia.

The 34-year-old from Blackpool insists he is innocent. He says he knows too much for the comfort of the Bosnian authorities and accuses the British embassy of ignoring him. "I'm an embarrassment to both," he said in an interview.

A former marine, Mackintosh refuses to discuss his British military career. After leaving the Army in 1989, he says he worked as a computer programmer in Zagreb, where he joined the Croatian Army as an instructor after the rise of nationalism.

In 1992, while protecting journalists on a journey from Split to Zenica, heavy fighting in Bosnia left him trapped behind enemy lines. He joined the Green Berets, one of many Bosnian paramilitary groups, and fought near Breza.

In December, having been awarded the *Zlatni Ljiljan*, Bosnia's highest military honour, he was evacuated to Britain with a stomach injury. "We were fighting tanks with peashooters," he said.

He returned briefly to Bosnia in 1994 with an Australian cameraman and came back again in 1995 in the hope of rejoining his former unit. Unhappy with his battalion commander, he was promised a job as an army instructor after the Dayton peace agreement.

While convalescing in Britain, he converted to Islam, taking the name Safet. He does not consider himself a mercenary, but a Bosnian soldier with wartime citizenship, and said he fought in Bosnia because of a "belief in principles, in justice". He speaks fluent Serbo-Croat.

> ‘He could go home tomorrow if he would sign a piece of paper, but he wants a retrial’

On New Year's Day, last year, he wanted to go into Zenica, the nearest town, for a drink. After fighting with the battalion security guard, Mackintosh says, "a gun was pulled on me". In retaliation, he drew a hand grenade and demanded to see the battalion commander. According to Mackintosh, the commander "smashed me across the face and grabbed it".

In the explosion that followed the commander was killed and Mackintosh was severely injured, with shrapnel wounds to the head. Since then, he claims, he has been mistreated by the Bosnian state. He says that while being taken for a brain scan in Sarajevo he was beaten by military police. International observers demanding to see him were marched out of Zenica hospital at gunpoint. His court martial, he said, "descended into pantomime".

Last September Mackintosh and 40 other prisoners began a rooftop protest at Zenica's "KP Dom" prison over conditions. "We were eating lentils, there were 25 to a room, armed guards, forced drug therapies, labour camps," he said.

"I have no fear of a retrial, if everything is done properly," he said. "Witnesses must be called, including a ballistics expert. What sort of soldier goes to kill his commanding officer and ends up almost as badly injured himself?"

TOM WALKER

Cy Mackintosh at the prison in Sarajevo where he is being held for manslaughter

Mackintosh has since been transferred to Sarajevo prison where he admitted he was "treated like Tito".

A guard said: "He is the only one demanding to go the mosque on a Friday. He wants to be wiser than everybody. In Zenica there are parks, sports fields and fresh air — and yet he compares it to a concentration camp. There are no limits to his attitude. He could go home tomorrow if he would only sign a piece of paper, but if he wants a retrial, then he needs new proof. The fact is that he did what he did and a Bosnian would have been given a much bigger sentence."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Canada unlikely to hold Pol Pot trial

Ottawa: Canada has all but rejected an American request to have Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader, tried in the country for Cambodian crimes against humanity (Richard Cleroux writes).

Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, said yesterday that the American request would have to be approved by the United Nations Security Council. That, in effect, kills any likelihood of the former Cambodian leader being tried in Canada because China has a veto on the council and would prevent Pol Pot facing justice.

The Americans want to send in a strikeforce, capture Pol Pot and try him. Canada is one of the few countries with laws allowing prosecutions for crimes against humanity by foreign citizens. However, it does not allow kidnapping.

Yeltsin suspends minister

Moscow: President Yeltsin has suspended Valentin Kovalyov, his Justice Minister, pending an investigation into media allegations that he was filmed in the sauna of a gangland nightclub with naked women. The monthly newspaper *Sovershenno Sekretno (Top Secret)* published last week grainy snaps taken from a video which it said showed Mr Kovalyov in the sauna in September 1995. Mr Kovalyov, a former Communist who became Justice Minister in January 1995, has denied any wrongdoing and said he had asked the President to suspend him from duties while he cleared his name. The Russian Government had asked Mr Yeltsin to sack Mr Kovalyov over the allegations rather than just suspend him. *(Reuter)*

Fifth suicide in sex case

Mâcon: A fifth suspect has committed suicide after being caught in a nationwide anti-paedophile operation by police last week that has sparked a row over publicity. The unidentified man, a teacher, was found hanged in Royan, southwest France, after being named among more than 200 suspects indicted after the police operation. Four previous suicides last week sparked a dispute over the publicity given to the anti-paedophile action. One family is planning to sue police. Among the others to take their own lives were a manager and a disabled man. In the latest case, the man had been charged with handling paedophile videos. *(AFP)*

Peter Graf ordered to jail

Mannheim: Peter Graf, right, father of the German tennis star Steffi Graf, will go back to prison next month to serve the remainder of his sentence for fraud, the Mannheim prosecutor's office said. Graf, 58, was sentenced to three years, nine months in prison on January 24, but was free, as was his former tax adviser and co-defendant, Joachim Eckardt, pending appeals. The appeals were dropped last week. *(AFP)*

210 killed in Sri Lanka

Colombo: About 60 soldiers and 150 rebels were killed in the latest battle in northern Sri Lanka, where troops are fighting Tamil Tiger separatists to try to open a key road, the Defence Ministry said. Another 68 government soldiers were wounded. More than 1,000 Tiger rebels had attacked the military's artillery and mortar positions near Periyamadu, north of the government-held town of Vavuniya. The attack, the second in two weeks, failed to capture artillery or cut supplies to troops farther north. *(Reuter)*

House warns Clinton not to keep US troops in Bosnia

By Ian Brodie
in Washington
and Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

PRESIDENT CLINTON has been sent a pointed warning by Congress not to prolong the stay of America's peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

The House of Representatives voted by 278 votes to 148 to cut off any funds for the troops beyond their scheduled departure date of June next year.

Mr Clinton has said he is committed to the pullout date but wants to retain some flexibility and would veto any attempt to write it into the Defence Bill. The Senate version of the Bill contains no similar provision and any attempt to overcome Mr Clinton's veto would require a two-thirds vote of both House and Senate.

The House amendment was a chance for nearly all the Republicans and 57 of Mr Clinton's fellow Democrats to express their unease over the Bosnia commitment and Mr Clinton's decision last year to extend the deployment of US troops until next June. Members took the opportunity to throw barbs at America's Nato allies for not carrying a greater share of the burden to police trouble spots close to their own doorsteps. Congressman Barney Frank, a Democrat, asked: "Can they do nothing by themselves? When we're talking about problems 100 to 200 miles from their border, this group of wealthy nations acts like a bunch of teenagers that hides behind the United States."

American forces comprise more than a third of the 31,000 Nato troops in and around Bosnia and although there have been no fatalities, there are concerns in Congress over the growing cost — estimated to total $7 billion (£4.2 billion).

In London, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that he was still hopeful that there would be an American military commitment to Bosnia beyond 1998. But he made clear that if the Americans withdrew, the other allies would not keep troops in the area. "Continued international support requires the presence of the Americans," he said.

He underlined Western anger at the failure by all three Bosnian national leaders to implement the terms of the Dayton peace agreement and said they had all sought to delay and impede the formation of a single state. That was disturbing because there were only 12 months left before the allied troops were due to leave.

However, he said he had never known such unity among the allies, who had all used "robust" language to warn the Bosnian leadership of the political and economic consequences, including reimposed sanctions, of failure to carry out their obligations.

Papon: charged with deporting Jews

Delay threat in Papon trial

***Bordeaux:** The trial of Maurice Papon, facing charges of deporting Jews during the Second World War, could be delayed because of a lack of money to complete renovations to the main court here, officials said yesterday. The announcement was criticised by lawyers for the families of deported Jews, who said France could be viewed as trying to protect M Papon, 86, the highest-ranking Vichy official to face charges of crimes against humanity. His trial was to begin in October. (AP)*

Nigeria ban must stay, says Cook

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN would veto any attempt to lift the suspension on Nigerian membership of the Commonwealth. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday, adding that nothing had happened to justify such a move.

"Nigeria is for the moment outside the Commonwealth and should stay outside the Commonwealth," he said. Any change would depend on Nigeria's making "very serious progress" on restoring democracy and improving its human rights record.

The eight-man Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, chaired by Stan Mudenge, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, meets in London on July 10 and 11 to take further evidence from human rights groups and others on the situation. It will also draw up recommendations to the Commonwealth summit in October on what to do about the country, as well as the military governments in Sierra Leone and Gambia.

Britain is represented on the action group by Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who in opposition was outspoken in condemning the military Government of General Sani Abacha, calling for tougher sanctions.

Mr Cook, voicing for the first time since coming to office Britain's opposition to any Nigerian return to the Commonwealth, said that the country was an interesting example of how economic progress was dependent on political freedom. "Nigeria should be the second richest country in Africa. What holds it back is a corrupt regime and very poor standards of governance," he said.

The action group may meet once more on the eve of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh. Canada and Britain are the hawks pushing for a tough line, but some African members appear to be weakening and suggest that General Abacha has already begun enough moves towards a restoration of democracy.

For valour, a necklace of flies

Cairo: Egyptian archaeologists working in the Nile Delta have found a necklace of golden flies thought to be a military decoration awarded by the Pharaoh Ahmose more than 3,500 years ago.

The necklace, with 19 pendants in the shape of flies, was found in excavations at Tell Basta, an important site about 45 miles from Cairo.

The archaeologists found it alongside a cartouche inscribed with the name of Ahmose, the founder of the dynasty which later brought ancient Egypt to the peak of its power and prosperity. The pharaoh ruled from 1570 to 1546 BC.

The head of the archaeological mission, Mahmoud Omar, speculated that the owner of the necklace won it for military service against the Hyksos, Asian invaders expelled by Ahmose after they had ruled northern Egypt for 200 years. He said this type of fly necklace was characteristic of Ahmose's time, but examples existed from other periods. *(Reuter)*

Fire bombs mark French oyster war

From Adam Sage
in Paris

AN OYSTER war has broken out in southern France, with farmers insulting, attacking and firebombing each other around the once-peaceful shores of Thau lake.

Three oyster-gatherers have stopped work this month after their stalls were doused with petrol and set alight. The old hands around the lake, near Montpellier, on the Mediterranean, blame newcomers for the violence. Police say they cannot identify the culprits and fear further attacks.

"It is hard to believe, but we used to get on fine together," a producer said yesterday. He said the conflict was started by the failure of family farms to adapt to a competitive world where young entrepreneurs want to move in and supermarkets try to force down prices.

The oyster war illustrated French resistance to the modern market economy, he said. Generations of oyster-gatherers have worked at the lake where 800 farms employ 4,000 people, selling produce worth about Fr450 million (£46 million) a year.

The nature of the industry is such that 62 per cent of farmers had parents who did the same job. The mineral-rich waters of the lake enable oysters to grow to full size in about two years, twice as quickly as in the Atlantic.

"It is nice work," the producer said. "We are outside, the weather is good in this part of the world and it is not too difficult. It only takes about a month to learn how to produce an oyster."

Therein lies the problem. Hérault, the département in which the lake is situated, has the worst unemployment rate in France, 18.8 per cent, compared with a national average of 12.8 per cent. Young jobless people are tempted to prise open the closed world of oyster-gathering, borrowing heavily to buy ropes and cages in which the oysters grow.

"They started to undercut the rest of us to sell their produce and we have all had to follow," the producer said. "If you are only just surviving, you have only one outlet for your oysters and someone else starts selling to the same place, you can imagine how you feel." He added: "What is more, the number of outlets has been reduced greatly in recent years. There are now only about ten big supermarkets who buy all our oysters. They pay what they want."

Like most locals, he believes newcomers hit by the price war are behind the attacks this month on his colleagues, Joseph Coste, Rémy Vatiuone and Jacky Dutil.

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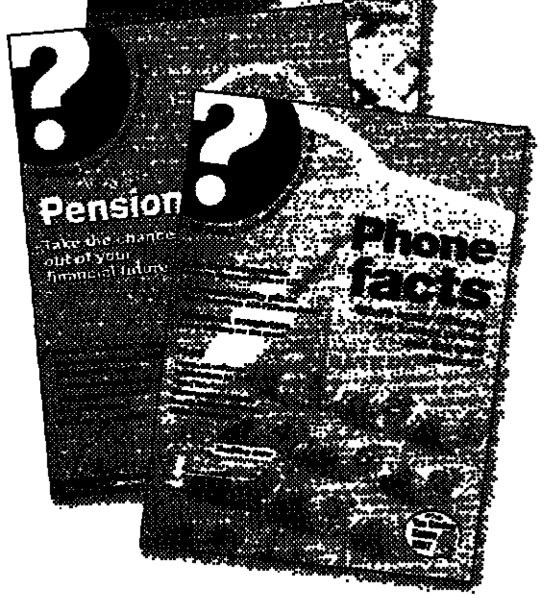

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World Cup dilemma over Nazi-era ruin

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

AS GERMANY beefs up its bid to host the 2006 football World Cup, a row has broken out over the venue that is supposed to be the centrepiece of the contest: Hitler's rundown Olympic stadium.

The problem which has to be unknotted over the next five days is whether to tear it down, give it a facelift, or build a new stadium near by.

The stadium was built for the 1936 Olympics which the Nazis tried to convert into a showcase for their theories of racial purity. The success of black American athletes, including the sprinter Jesse Owens, upset the calculation and Hitler ostentatiously refused to present the medals.

During the war, part of the stadium was used by the Blaupunkt company to make weaponry. Later it was used as a tobacco store and then became part of the complex that served the British military government. Thriller writers such as Len Deighton place — probably correctly — the Cold War headquarters of British military intelligence in the offices bordering the stadium.

Some of the Hitler-era statues still stand, such as Breker's "Decathlete" as peeling monuments to Aryan hero worship, but the stadium is in poor condition. The masonry from the supposed Thousand Year Reich has become soft and crumbly. The 100-yard-long tunnel from the changing room to the arena is covered with mould. Steel props are holding up the outer walls and water is leaking everywhere. The VIP platform is shored up with temporary building work and something more stable will have to replace it, engineers say.

The plan of the German Football Federation is that either the opening game or the final of the 2006 World Cup should be played in the stadium. When the German Football League championship final was played in Berlin recently it became clear how much work was needed to bring it up to standard.

The problem is money. Neither the German Government nor the Berlin Senate has enough to finance the reconstruction. Berlin is supposed to decide by next Monday whether to buy the stadium and its surrounding area from the Government (which took it over when British troops withdrew from Berlin).

Central to Berlin's financial arithmetic is how much Bonn is willing to pay. Eberhard Diepgen, the Mayor of Berlin, is in favour of building a large glass or plastic roof over the stadium and revamping the interior. That would cost about DM660 million (about £230 million).

An alternative, favoured by senior German sporting officials, is that a new stadium is constructed on the so-called May Field — where British officers used to play polo until recently — next to the old stadium. Building from scratch would cost about DM400 million. According to these calculations, the Olympic Stadium would become a sports museum. But extra funds would still be needed to keep it standing.

Another option is the so-called "Wembley Stadium" model, in which the outer walls would be retained, while the rest would be rebuilt. That, too, would be very expensive.

The dilemma of those favouring a facelift over the bulldozer is that they might end up looking like defenders of Hitler's monumental creation. The stench of the Nazi era, 63 years after the Games, still hangs around the terraces. It has not been helped by Berlin's unsuccessful bid to stage the 2000 Olympics — which prompted a revival of Leni Riefenstahl's film footage of 1936 — and by a quiet glorification of the sporting achievements of the Hitler time.

A plaque has been set up in the stadium honouring Carl Diem, the chief organiser of the 1936 Games. As Berlin collapsed in April 1945, Diem put together a Hitler Youth Division which tried and failed to win back the stadium from Soviet soldiers. About 2,000 teenagers died in the attempt. The plaque does not mention that.

The flame being carried into the stadium in 1936

Spectators give the Nazi salute as the US team parades at the Berlin Olympics, intended by Hitler to demonstrate Aryan supremacy

Intemperate outburst lands Germany's Chancellor in the mire

By Roger Boyes

HELMUT KOHL, for the first time in more than 14 years of ruling Germany, has taken public issue with a report about him in a German news magazine, demanding the right of reply.

Two weeks ago *Stern* magazine carried a cover story on the rapidly softening contours of the euro in which it claimed that Herr Kohl — in a closed meeting with parliamentarians — described the grassroots of his Christian Democratic Party as "clever shits".

"This claim is false," said a letter from the Chancellor, which the magazine published. "I did not criticise the grassroots of the Christian Democratic Union." Rather, he was sympathising with deputies who face criticism about the Bonn crisis from local constituencies on returning home at weekends. In that context, the Chancellor concedes, he said: "I read many clever-shit [*klugscheisserndel*] newspapers which claim to know everything."

Stern, having printed the letter, refuses to let the matter rest. Today it carries a full transcript of Herr Kohl's words to his deputies. "I read many clever-shit newspapers which claim to know everything. And I know there is a great deal of unease. I say quite plainly, I know how it is: you go back on Fridays and attend the constituency association meeting, and they are all sitting there … and they say, what are you up to, and to stay in the blunt idiom of the Palatinate, they say — 'What kind of shit are you actually doing in Bonn?' "

The language has upset local Christian Democrats. The backbone of the party's support is still in the churchgoing population of small towns and villages. Other chancellors, notably but not exclusively Willy Brandt, were capable of extravagant oaths but only in private. The Chancellor, in trying to make amends, has sunk deeper in the mire.

Perhaps because of his crushing schedule recently — an unsatisfactory Franco-German summit followed by a difficult Amsterdam summit, crisis sessions in Bonn, the Denver and New York summits — Herr Kohl has been very irritated. Usually such outbursts are kept within a closed circle. But on the fringes of the Amsterdam summit, for example, he fired loose verbal cannons at Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian leader, in effect accusing him of undermining Bonn's struggle to start up the euro.

That attack has played into the hands of Herr Stoiber, who shot back yesterday in an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, saying he was not afraid of an open confrontation with the Chancellor.

☐ Untimely gift: Herr Kohl plans to return a Rolex watch he was given as one of the world leaders at the "G8" summit in Denver last week. Tony Blair turned down his watch, and President Chirac will donate his to an exhibition of presidential gifts. President Clinton and his counterparts from Russia and Canada accepted theirs. *(Reuter, AFP)*

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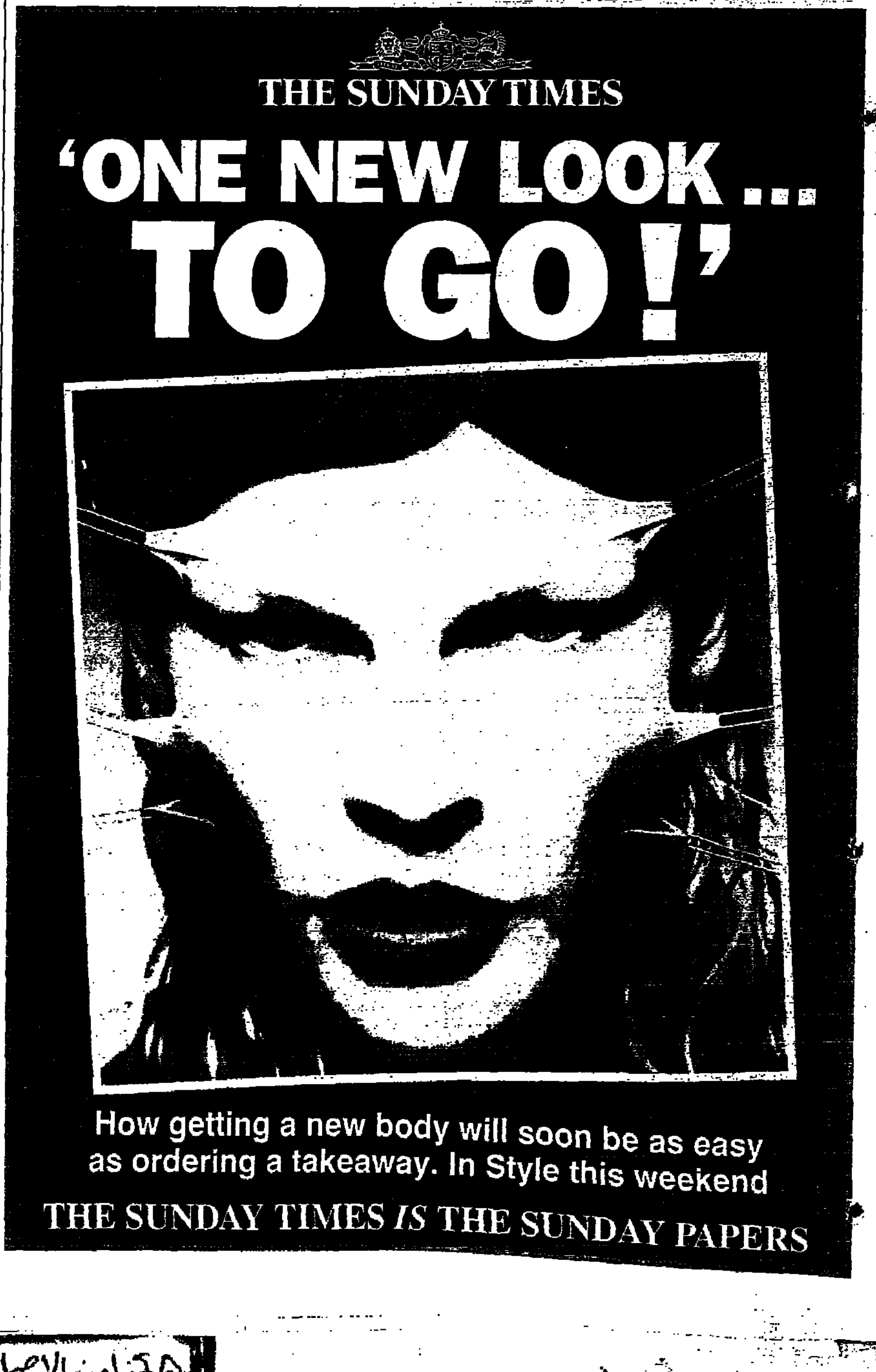
THE SUNDAY TIMES

'ONE NEW LOOK… TO GO!'

How getting a new body will soon be as easy as ordering a takeaway. In Style this weekend

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Colony's police send 'racism' plea to Queen

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

EIGHT Hong Kong Chinese police officers with full British passports have petitioned the Queen to allow them to retire on full pension, like their white colleagues, before the handover to China.

They told *The Times* last night that although they had been warned officially that they may be charged with "desertion" — an imprisonable offence — if they fail to report for duty on July 1, they will refuse to serve "the communist government".

In the petition to the Queen on June 16, the eight, two of whom are second generation policemen and women, who have an average length of service of 20 years, wrote: "We have been awarded Long Service Colonial Police Medals for our long and dedicated service to the Crown.

"We do not want to switch our loyalty and cannot serve the Police Force of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of Communist China. Loyalty is a personal essence which has frequently been neglected or overlooked in modern times."

The officers, who have also personally petitioned the Governor in Hong Kong and the Foreign Office, contend that it is unjust that about 250 of their white colleagues, whose only difference is that they were recruited in Britain, have been allowed to retire before the handover with full pensions and compensation awards ranging up to £100,000.

They all took their oaths and underwent police training in Hong Kong. The eight contend that none of the 2,000-member Local Inspectors' Association was told of the offer, which was made secretly to the white officers, and that when the local officers, who have British passports, learnt of the deal and protested, they were told in a judicial review that they should have applied by 1993.

Chik Ki-wai, a spokesman for the group, said last night: "We didn't even know about this deal until 1995. How could we protest?"

Mr Chik has been a frequent visitor last year and this to London, where he has seen officials in the Foreign Office and, before the election, Labour Party frontbench spokesmen on Hong Kong. In a letter to his group, on March 10, Jeremy Hanley, then the Minister of State with responsibility for Hong Kong, said that if the officers were permitted to resign with full pensions, "the British Government would be placed under great pressure to provide the same benefit to all Hong Kong civil servants who hold British passports".

That amounts to at least 50,000 civil servants in all branches, including hundreds of police, who were given their passports in 1991 because they were in "sensitive positions".

In 1995 when the inspectors' association learnt of the secret arrangement for their white colleagues, they resolved unanimously that the matter was unfair and should be protested against. Since then, the association has decided not to bring action as a group, but to support any individuals who demand equal treatment from London.

Mr Chik said he was sympathetic to government fears that if hundreds of officers resigned before the handover, Hong Kong would be destabilised. "But this has been racist legislation," he said.

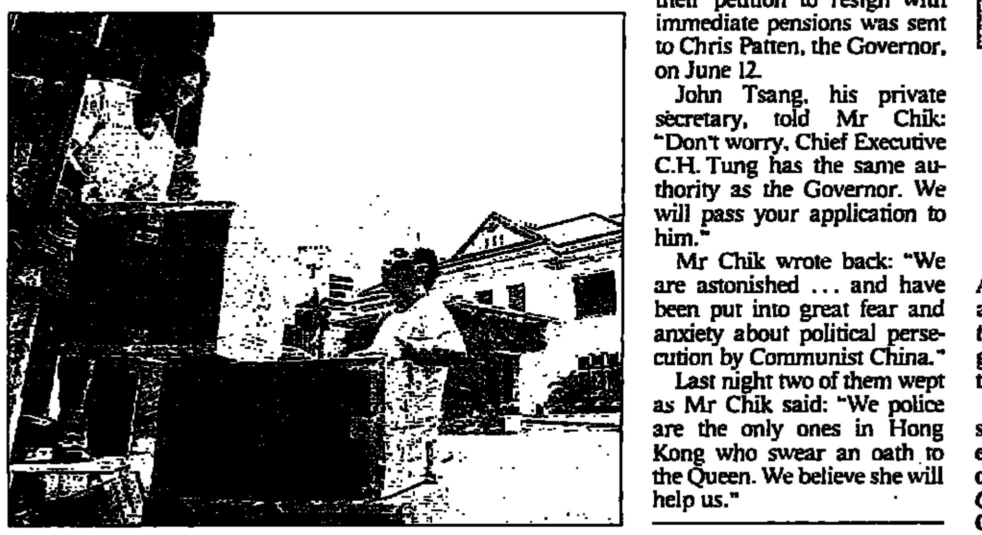
The eight say they were thrown into "terror" after their petition to resign with immediate pensions was sent to Chris Patten, the Governor, on June 12.

John Tsang, his private secretary, told Mr Chik: "Don't worry, Chief Executive C.H. Tung has the same authority as the Governor. We will pass your application to him."

Mr Chik wrote back: "We are astonished ... and have been put into great fear and anxiety about political persecution by Communist China."

Last night two of them wept as Mr Chik said: "We police are the only ones in Hong Kong who swear an oath to the Queen. We believe she will help us."

Lavender Patten, page 21
Books, page 40



Removal men pack belongings yesterday from Hong Kong's Government House, home of Chris Patten

JASON REED / REUTER

Gurkha pipers join musicians of the Scots Guards for the farewell ceremony

Lament to the end of empire

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

AS A lone piper launched into a haunting lament, the traditional British stiff upper lip, guardian of emotion, began to tremble.

But then, all reserve restored in the dying days of empire, the Britons rose as one to sing *God Save the Queen* in a land where the Chinese will soon be masters of their destiny again.

About 30,000 people packed into a Hong Kong stadium to say farewell yesterday to an empire that once boasted 400 million subjects around the world.

They came to hear the massed bands of the British armed forces herald the end of a century and a half of colonial rule here. Pipers from the Scottish Highlands, Gurkhas from Nepal, Scots Guards fresh from duty outside Buckingham Palace — all were there to stir British patriotism. Pinstripe suit jackets were removed in the humidity, but gentlemen kept their ties on.

Expatriates far from England's green and pleasant land waved Union Jacks as the massed bands, striking a triumphal note from the past, launched into "Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves, Britons never, never, never shall be slaves". Then they joined hands for a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* as polite but bemused Chinese looked on.

Britain caves in on council ceremony

FROM DAVID WATTS IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN has caved in and agreed to attend the swearing-in of the new Provisional Legislative Council (LegCo) for Hong Kong when its members take office soon after the official handover ceremony next week.

This important concession to China was made despite Britain's having taken a tough stand against a body it regards as illegal. The Foreign Office conceded last night that Francis Cornish, the Consul-General, and Hugh Davies, the senior representative to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, will attend the swearing-in. It is expected to take place minutes after the inauguration of Tung Chee-hwa, the new Chief Executive. Tony Blair and Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, will leave immediately after that and boycott the later ceremony, the only two big powers to do so.

The Foreign Office took the decision after it became clear that Britain would be isolated in its defiance. The United States had announced earlier that it would be represented at consular level when the members of the legislature are sworn in. Until yesterday Washington had stood firm with Britain in declining the invitation. But both saw their position eroding as other countries, notably Australia, declined to follow suit.

The State Department justified its decision last night saying that its consul, Richard Boucher, would have to work with the new government.

"Let's face it. The State Department made a mistake," Allen Lee, leader of the Liberal Party who is sympathetic to Beijing, said. "They thought other countries would follow them and they didn't."

The agreement to send representatives will be the second climbdown this week, after London's yielding to Chinese pressure in allowing more than 500 troops to arrive before the official handover.

The Chinese said they would establish the Provisional Legislative Council after rejecting plans by Chris Patten, the Governor, for a "through train" which would have provided for a body that spanned the transition to the new Special Administrative Region government. Britain does not recognise this body, which will start approving 13 new laws for the territory three hours after the handover ceremonies have been concluded with the Prince of Wales and Mr Patten sailing out of Hong Kong harbour on board *Britannia*.

What happens immediately after that remains the subject of speculation here: whether the Chinese Navy will escort *Britannia* off the premises or whether her mooring will be occupied by a Chinese naval vessel; either way an exclusion zone will be set up in the harbour so that Chinese VIPs can travel across the harbour to the Hong Kong Conference Centre where the handover will be held without fear of being seen by any protesters.

Among the laws to be promulgated are a new Public Order Act that will require seven days' notice of a demonstration to the Commissioner of Police. The legislation is not dissimilar to the original colonial law rescinded by Mr Patten. If the police chief chooses to deny the application, the organisers must be given notice two days before the planned event and they must be given an explanation. A secondary, faster, provision allows for a demonstration at three days' notice which must have a response from the police on the day after the application.

The membership of the new legislature has been selected by a body of 400 people handpicked by the Chinese. Ten of these legislators lost their seats in the democratic elections in 1995. The Chinese have promised that new elections will be held a year after the provisional body takes office. As the system of voting is expected to change, it is also expected that the 19 opposition Democrats now in the council will be reduced to 13.

☐ **Designer flags:** Xiao Hong, the Chinese professor who designed Hong Kong's post-colonial flag has been treated in hospital for fatigue after attending too many handover parties, the Xinhua news agency said. *(Reuter)*

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London to challenge 'dog's dinner' treaty

The Amsterdam treaty text allegedly contains conditions not agreed at the summit, writes **Charles Bremner in Brussels**

A WEEK after the European Union produced its Treaty of Amsterdam, Britain is claiming that the text has inserted conditions on frontiers and police work that were demanded by Spain but not approved by EU leaders at their summit.

Britain's challenge, to be made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at a meeting in Luxembourg today, is one of several complaints about items that slipped into the treaty apparently as a result of the confusion in the hectic final session in Amsterdam last week.

In the aftermath of a negotiation that ended in acrimony, Germany and several other states are unhappy that the treaty grants the European Parliament potential veto powers over legislation on frontiers and other areas despite lack of agreement under the leaders.

In the most glaring case of sleight of hand, President Chirac managed to introduce a treaty guarantee keeping Strasbourg as the seat of the Parliament, although officials at the summit do not recall the issue being discussed. "Chirac must have mumbled something and no-one objected, so that was taken as assent," a senior Belgian official said.

Politicians across Europe have denounced the new treaty as a muddle that does nothing to prepare the EU for its cardinal goal of enlargement to include the former communist states of East and Central Europe.

The complaint of Britain and Ireland focuses on the special arrangement which exempts them from taking part in the removal of all frontier controls on the EU's internal borders.

Tony Blair had fought for an "opt-in", which will enable Britain, if it wants, to take part in police co-operation and other aspects of the new border machinery. The bulk of this comes under the old "Schengen accords", complex machinery for frontier management among the 13 other states, which lay outside EU law.

In a move strongly questioned by legal experts, the "Maastricht II" treaty incorporates as EU law the 2,000 pages of Schengen and says Britain may join in but only with the unanimous approval of other states.

This condition, which creates a potential veto, was requested by Spain, with an eye to its dispute with Britain over Gibraltar and the application of EU law to the territory. "We don't know how this got in, but we're going to make sure it's reversed," a British official said yesterday.

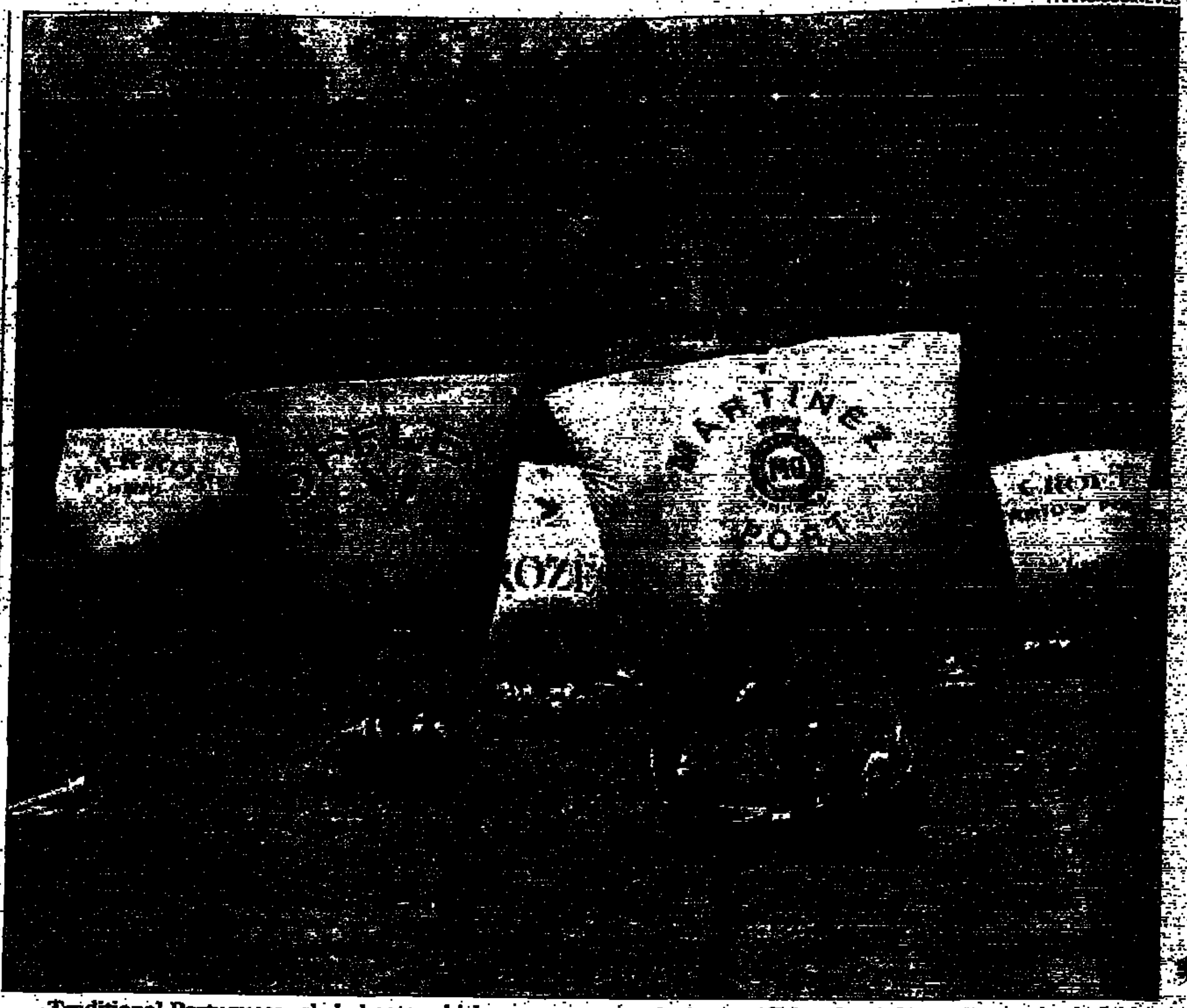
Dutch officials said the confusion over the 142-page treaty was inevitable, given the hectic end-game at Amsterdam. Their text, which an EU ambassador called a "dog's dinner", was the best they could do with their notes and tapes of the final session, they said.

The Dutch are working with officials from the other states to "sort out the loose ends" and prepare a final text in the 11 languages for signature by EU leaders in Amsterdam this autumn, they said.

They said nobody had formally challenged the French-inspired clause on Strasbourg, which turns into treaty language a declaration by EU leaders at an Edinburgh EU summit in December 1992.

That sought to put an end to the quarrel in which a minority of the Parliament wants to halt the expensive and time-consuming monthly shuttle to Strasbourg from Brussels, where the Parliament has a lavish new headquarters and conducts its committees and short sessions.

Leading article, page 23



FRANCISCO NEVES

Traditional Portuguese rabelo boats, which once transported cargoes of port downriver, compete in their annual regatta on the Douro River. The event celebrates the feast of São João, the patron of Oporto

Jewish victims accuse Britain over lost funds

From Christopher Walker in Tel Aviv

BRITAIN yesterday joined the growing list of countries accused of mismanaging the assets of Jewish victims of the Holocaust and of placing barriers in the way of heirs trying to recover possessions lost more than 50 years ago.

The accusations, first made in the 1950s and since dormant, were revived in an exposé published by the Tel Aviv business daily *Globes*, the paper which in 1995 first uncovered the scandal of Swiss banks' abuse of the deposits of Holocaust victims. It is based on 500 documents recently retrieved from the Public Record Office in Kew.

Last night John Leopold, a 50-year-old Israeli research physicist — whose parents, both Holocaust survivors who died nearly penniless in the Jewish state after failing to recover "a substantial sum" lodged in a British clearing bank by his Romanian Jewish grandfather — told *The Times* why he had approached *Globes*. "I felt that with other countries now trying to make amends, Britain should try and do the same, at least from a moral point of view. It is not on a par with the Swiss case, but it is an ugly tale from the war that should be cleared up. There is a bad stink about it."

Although exact figures are impossible to come by, the *Globes* journalist Itamar Levin claimed that "tens of millions" of pounds at current values were involved. He said the true sum, and that proportion of it belonging to Jews, could be discovered only by a detailed investigation of about 6,000 files on cases of assets seized by the Custodian of Enemy Property set up in London in 1939 under the Board of Trade.

The allegedly misappropriated cash and possessions belong primarily to Jews living in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary who were unable after the war, because of the Iron Curtain, to reclaim the money left or saved in Britain.

The Foreign Office said last night it was investigating the allegations.

Globes said that it was systematic British policy to use property confiscated from Holocaust victims to compensate British citizens who granted credit before the war to countries that later became Nazi Germany's allies. It also charged that survivors, who after "years of struggle" succeeded in getting back their assets, received them only at nominal value.

The Holocaust Educational Trust, which has led the campaign over Swiss gold, said thousands of Holocaust victims had their assets seized by the Government and that producing documentation to reclaim them after the war was often impossible. It added that about 30 per cent of all claims were rejected and less than £1 million in total was paid out.

Mr Levin said: "The terrible thing about this case is that the country involved is Britain, the one place where Jews looked for fair treatment only to find their assets often stolen: I am sorry, there is no other word for it."

Spain eases Nato ban over Gibraltar

By Giles Tremlett in Madrid and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

SPAIN is preparing to lift longstanding military restrictions imposed on all Nato members operating warships and combat aircraft in and out of Gibraltar.

British and other Nato warships docking in Gibraltar are prohibited from then entering Spanish ports. Spain also refuses to take part in Nato naval exercises if they involve Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft operating out of Gibraltar.

Yesterday Eduardo Serra, the Spanish Defence Minister, told a parliamentary committee in Madrid that these restrictions would be lifted. A third restriction, however, under which Nato aircraft flying to Gibraltar are banned from using Spanish air space, seems likely to remain in place, at least for the foreseeable future.

The concessions, removing some of the anomalies that have prevented Nato members from enjoying equal military rights within the alliance's borders, will help to ease Spain's entry into the integrated structure for the first time since it joined the organisation in 1981.

Spain has agreed to join Nato's integrated military set-up, provided the alliance's command structure is reorganised. Under the new-look Nato, Spain will be given a substantial sub-regional command headquarters, to be based in Madrid. At present there are no Nato command headquarters in Spain.

The announcement that Spain is prepared to offer concessions over Gibraltar underlines the high stakes that are being played by individual Nato members to guarantee them influential status in the new command structure.

However, Señor Serra made it clear that the concessions did not imply that the Spanish Government was softening Spain's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar, which it handed over to Britain under the terms of the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. He also said there would be no change in limits imposed on civilians.

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Clinton security men questioned on 'affairs'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, the Whitewater special prosecutor, was reported yesterday to have expanded his investigation into any extramarital relationships that President Clinton may have had.

The Washington Post said FBI agents and prosecutors working for Mr Starr had questioned eight Arkansas state troopers about their knowledge of between 12 and 15 women whose names have been mentioned in connection with Mr Clinton when he was Governor. They included Paula Jones, the former state employee who has taken legal action alleging sexual harassment by Mr Clinton, and Gennifer Flowers, who said she had a 12-year adulterous affair with him. Mr Clinton has denied both allegations.

One trooper, Roger Perry, said investigators asked whether another of the women they named had given birth to a child by Mr Clinton and whether the child looked like him, the *Post* reported. This unproven allegation has been the subject of Arkansas rumour for years.

Mr Perry said he was asked about Mrs Jones and whether he had seen Mr Clinton with her and how often. He is said to have answered that he saw them together once or twice in Little Rock, in public places and engaged in casual conversation. The questioning marks an intimidatory new line of inquiry for Mr Starr's investigation, which began as an examination of any illegal use of funds during the failed Whitewater land speculation in which Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, invested in 1978.

Yesterday's article said the interviews were an effort by Mr Starr's office to find close Clinton associates in whom he may have confided and who could provide information about the veracity of sworn statements Mr Clinton has made about Whitewater.

The disclosures are likely further to anger Democrats who accuse Mr Starr, a Republican, of turning his supposedly independent inquiry into a political vendetta. Mr Starr's investigation, now three years old, increasingly gives the impression of wallowing in its attempts to indict Mrs Clinton and to target Mr Clinton.

There are intensifying signs of Mr Starr trying the issue in the media through leaks from his office. A co-author of yesterday's account was Bob Woodward, the *Post*'s Watergate sleuth.

Mr Perry, who served on Mr Clinton's personal security staff in Arkansas, said that in previous interviews Whitewater investigators had said explicitly they were not interested in the President's personal life. Now, he said, "I was left with the impression they wanted to show he was a womaniser ... All they wanted to talk about was women."

Mr Perry said investigators asked him the most intimate details of Mr Clinton's life, including whether he had ever seen him perform a sexual act. Mr Perry told them: "The answer is no."

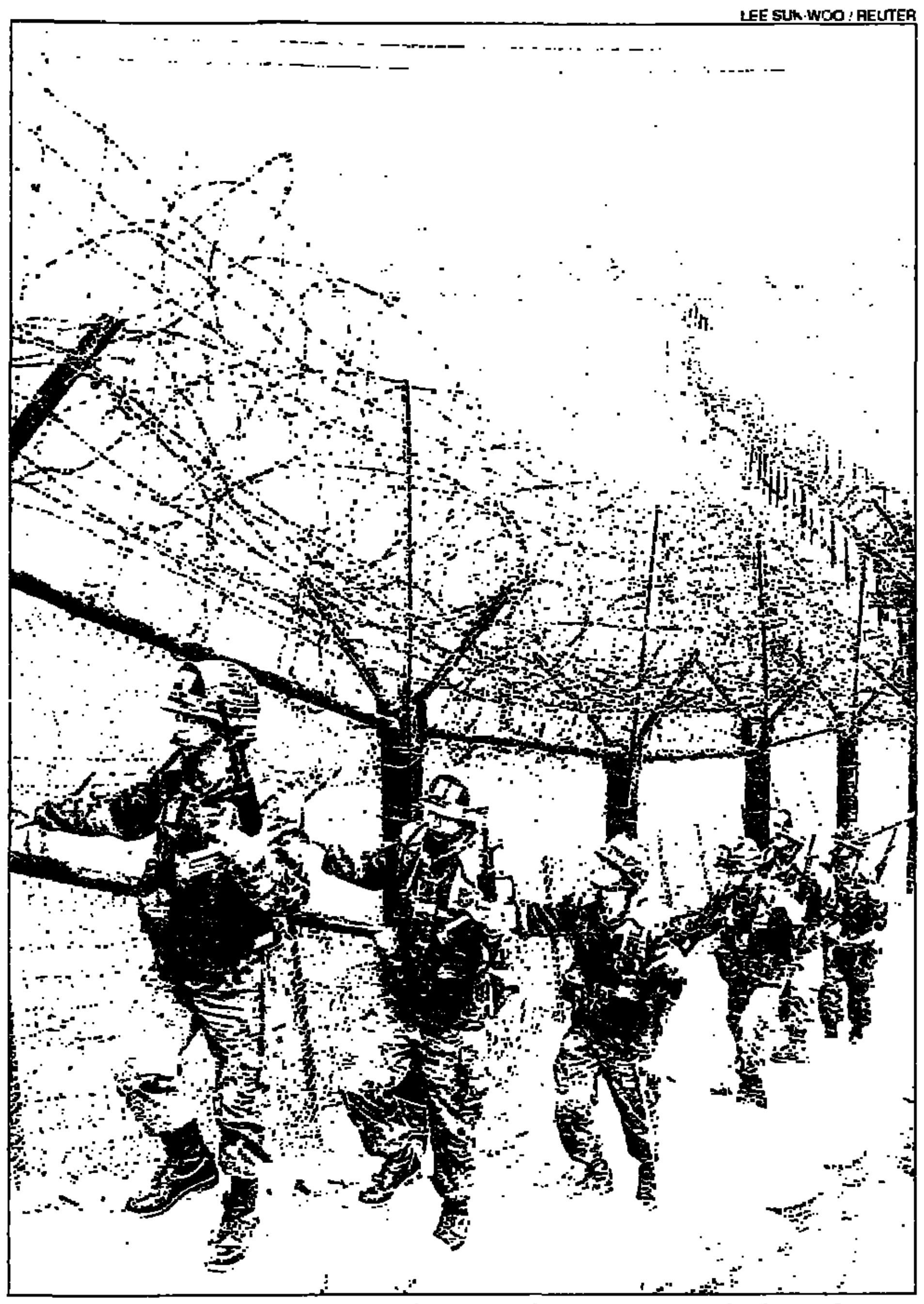
Mr Perry did tell investigators that he and other troopers either took Mr Clinton to, or provided vehicles to transport him to, clandestine meetings with seven or eight of the women on the prosecutors' list at times when Mrs Clinton was away or asleep, the report said. Mr Perry and three other members of the Governor's security staff made similar allegations in articles published four years ago.

Another trooper, Ronald Anderson, said he refused to answer the questions about personal relationships Mr Clinton may have had with women. He was reported to have told prosecutors: "If he's done something illegal, I will tell you. But I'm *not* going to answer a question about women he knew because I just don't feel it's anybody's business."

Jones: legal action over "sexual harassment"

Flowers: says they had adulterous 12 years

LEE SUN-WOO / REUTER



South Korean soldiers, still technically at war, check the Demilitarised Zone fence

Koreans agree to fresh peace talks

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NORTH Korea said yesterday it was ready to take part in peace talks aimed at replacing the truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Stalinist country's official media reported that Pyongyang was prepared to negotiate with South Korea, the United States and China on a peace settlement for the divided peninsula.

The announcement, on the forty-seventh anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict, prompted cautious hopes that officials might get round a table in August to set an agenda for the talks.

Pyongyang said it was willing to discuss an accord as long as the US and South Korea did not launch a military offensive. "As long as the enemies do not provoke a war, we will press ahead with the peace process on the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiation," the Korean Central News Agency said.

The talks were proposed by President Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea last year. The North demanded large-scale food aid and an easing of US trade sanctions to take part.

Green groups vow to stop space probe

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

ENVIRONMENTAL militants and anti-nuclear activists have vowed to halt Nasa's "Cassini programme", which will shortly launch a space probe on a seven-year journey to Saturn.

Cassini is one of the most ambitious projects yet in planetary science. A $3.2 billion *(£1.9 billion) joint venture* between Nasa and the European Space Agency, the probe is scheduled to take off from Cape Canaveral on October 6, reaching Saturn's orbit in 2004.

The probe, also called Cassini, will spend four years in close observation of the ringed planet, previously explored only by "fly-by" craft of uncertain accuracy. A smaller probe will detach from Cassini and descend towards Titan, one of Saturn's moons, which has an atmosphere rich in organic molecules that may provide clues to the early stages of the evolution of life on Earth.

Green groups, however, object to the spacecraft's use of nuclear power for its scientific instruments. Cassini will carry nuclear generators that absorb the heat given off by the natural radioactive decay of plutonium 238, converting it to electricity. The craft will also carry tiny nuclear-powered heaters to protect the instruments in the glacial cold *of interplanetary space.*

No more than 72lb of radioactive material will be on board, but such radical organisations as the New York-based Learning Alliance, the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Food Not Bombs group are threating non-violent sit-ins on the Cape Canaveral launch-pad. Protest rallies have also been planned to take place in September in New York and Washington.

☐ Los Angeles: Hughes Space and Communications Inc is suing a Russian affiliate of the Lockheed Martin Corporation for $300 million, claiming that it reneged on a contract to launch satellites at a fixed price. *(AP)*

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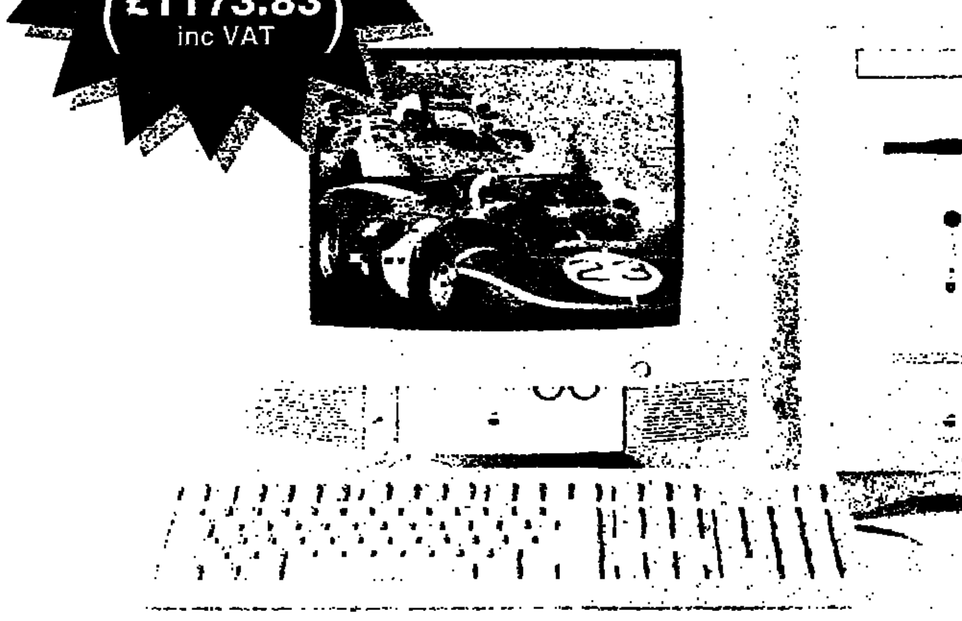

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on keeping heart disease under control; the benefits of a good bed; alcohol and growing old; and microbes in your training shoes

Drugs cut heart risk

It is just as well that the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is unlikely to have a copy of *The Pharmaceutical Times* aboard. The latest edition of the journal would have made depressing reading for the Governor of Hong Kong as he contemplates resuming his life in Britain.

There are two reports in *The Pharmaceutical Times* on the treatment of cardiovascular disease in Britain. In one, titled *The Appalling Treatment of Heart Disease*, Mark Greener analyses why it remains this country's leading cause of death, and why so many doctors still do not prescribe the drugs which could alleviate the situation.

In another review in that issue, Peter Winters, of ICIS Research, details the opinion of 1,120 doctors in Europe, the US and Japan on the way in which British doctors treat strokes, and the threat of them, in the UK. Their opinion is summarised as "if you have an acute stroke, do not have it in the UK".

Mr Patten suffered from coronary heart disease at the start of his term as Governor, but an immediate angioplasty has kept him free of trouble throughout his term of office. An angioplasty clears the passage through the coronary arteries by forcing any atheromatous plaque back against the arterial wall where it has caused narrowing. In carrying out an angioplasty the doctor introduces a balloon into the lumen of the coronary artery so that when the balloon is inflated it exerts the necessary pressure on the soft plaque, so that it is flattened.

Two thirds of the patients who are treated with angioplasty for coronary arterial narrowing improve. Unfortunately, the remaining third either show no immediate relief of symptoms, or need a bypass or a repeat angioplasty within six months. Even in those in whom the operation is deemed successful there is a gradual furring up of the arteries over a few years. Mr Greener makes a strong plea for greater use of lipid-lowering drugs to reduce the blood fats. He quotes Dr Neil Poulter of St Mary's Hospital, London, who recently told an international conference that in Britain we not only suffer high levels of the standard risk factors for heart disease, but do less than many other countries to counteract them.

Fifty four per cent of men who have had a heart attack still do not take aspirin daily, and nor do 60 per cent of those who have angina, and at risk from coronary thrombosis.

Over the past few years several surveys have shown that reducing blood fats using the statin drugs, such as Simvastatin and Pravastatin, can have a marked effect in reducing the deathrate from heart disease. The rate was cut by approximately a third and the statistics also suggest that, if all those in whom there was an indication for the use of these drugs took them, the number of people in Britain suffering from heart disease would be halved.

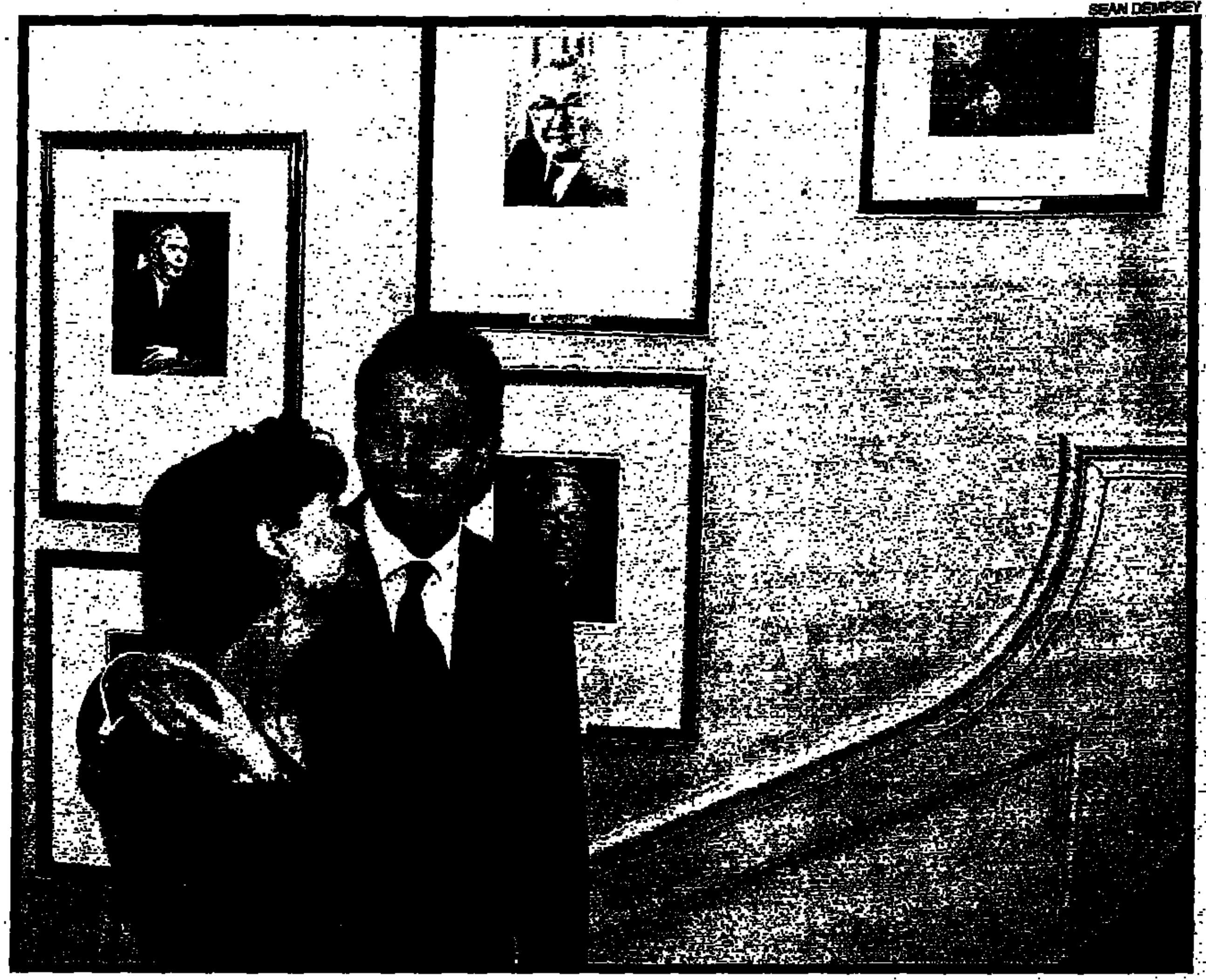
Few doctors now doubt the efficacy of the statin group of drugs and their ability to reduce cholesterol levels. The reason they are not prescribed more widely is thought to be their cost.

Greater use of the statin drugs can be shown to be cost-effective when they are given to high-risk patients, and it would seem reasonable to target initially those patients with angina, those who have had a heart attack, and those who have markedly raised cholesterol levels. In these groups, the expense of the prophylactic treatment is balanced by the saving in hospital costs which would occur if they were to have a heart attack.

Once the price of the statin drugs starts to fall it seems likely that many others, in whom the risk of coronary heart disease is less great, will also be treated prophylactically. It is encouraging that the deathrate in Britain from coronary heart disease in men aged 35 to 75 fell between 1980 and 1990 by 23 per cent, but Mr Greener points out that during the same period it fell in Sweden by 33 per cent and the United States by 35 per cent.

As Mr Patten belongs to one of the high-risk groups he is presumably watching his diet and taking regular exercise. Doubtless he will also be taking a daily aspirin and should take regular statin drugs.

SEAN DEMPSEY



Spending £4,000 on a bed may seem a small price if it leaves the Prime Minister fresh to carry the heavy burden of office

Paying the price for a good night's sleep

A GOOD night's rest is important for for those whose days are filled with demanding problems, so no one would begrudge the three or four thousand pounds the Prime Minister has recently spent on a new bed for No 10.

Indeed, by some people's standards, the Blair bed was cheap. And So To Bed, the Chelsea bed firm, has mattresses which range from £500 to £9,000, with the beds costing as much or more. A high quality, long-lasting mattress providing firm back support could cost £5,000.

Although those people with chronic backache should choose a firm mattress it should also be soft enough to follow the patient's contours. A so-called orthopaedic bed might have suited the Blairs better than the one they have bought. One of the most popular types of bed of this sort is manufactured by Lattoflex, of Tenterden in Kent. These beds have a slatted base with an automatic electrical control. Double beds are fitted with two separate mattresses to suit the two sleepers. The head can be raised so as to allow either partner to read in bed without disturbing the other. The ability to drop the foot as well as to raise the head also helps the breathless and the dyspeptic who have oesophageal reflux. Hence their association with medical conditions. The mattress on the Lattoflex beds is firm but not hard and is made of scalloped foam which allows the air in it to be constantly changing. The mattress costs up to £4,000, a well made beech bed up to £2,000.

People with a bad back but without £6,000 could consider a Topper mattress, sold by John Bell & Croyden of Wigmore Street, London, which lies on top of a normal one. It provides good support as the specialised foam moulds itself around a warm body. A single mattress costs about £400, a double about £800.

Suffering from ovarian cancer

Michael

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Fungi have a field day in trainers

THE council that looks after the interests of Muslims in America has asked that the trainers made by one manufacturer be banned because their logo could be mistaken for the Arabic symbol for Allah. The firm has agreed to withdraw the offending shoes from sale.

Muslim's hierarchy consider shoes are unclean because they can be covered in mud from pavements.

The council members would have had an even better case had they seen a recent study on the number of micro-organisms which can be found in trainers worn by athletes from the Thames Valley Harriers.

The logo that gave offence

Seventy-six times more fungi were found in these shoes than could be cultured from the bowl or seat of a public lavatory.

There were also more micro-organisms in an old shoe than in the lavatory bowl. Trainers did, however, have a larger colony of microbes living within them than did other shoes — even if they had been worn on three consecutive days.

These fungi are a frequent cause of athlete's foot which affects 40 per cent of people from time to time. The bacteria in the shoes may be responsible for any secondary infection.

The fungi can be treated with Daktarin preparations, or other suitable fungicides. It is also possible to buy a Daktarin spray to treat the shoes.

Improving with age

Recently it has been suggested that alcohol, which has been shown to have a cardio-protective effect, could also delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

This concept is likely to be even less immediately popular with some doctors than was the theory — now proven and accepted — that a modest daily intake of alcohol reduces the risk of suffering from heart disease.

At a recent medical meeting in Bordeaux, Professor Jean Marc Orgogozo discussed the long-term effects of alcohol on performance in later life.

There is no doubt that if alcohol is drunk to excess — particularly if the heavy drinking is associated, as is often the case, with malnutrition — it can lead to acute forms of dementia such as Korsakoff's psychosis or the even more dangerous Wernicke's encephalopathy.

Fortunately, few drinkers consume so much that they end up demented. Professor Orgogozo was addressing the problem of the effects of alcohol on the intellect in old age in those who had drunk steadily but modestly throughout life.

He studied the intelligence of 377 people over the age of 65 who were living in the Gironde and Dordogne districts of France. The resulting statistics were encouraging. There was an inverse relationship between regular, moderate wine drinking and the likelihood of developing senile dementia.

The drinkers had an average of three to four standard glasses of wine a day, or its equivalent, but, as might be expected in France, 95 per cent of the regular drinkers usually had wine.

The evidence that the drinkers were less likely to develop Alzheimer's than were teetotallers was very marked. Professor Orgogozo said: "It would be premature at this stage of our research to advise all elderly people to drink more wine daily.

> Few drink so much alcohol that they end up demented

"There does, however, seem to be no medical rationale why we should advise people of 65 to stop drinking so long as they're doing it in moderation.

"The habit seems to carry no specific risk, doesn't damage the intellect and seems to be of benefit to their health."

Support for Professor Orgogozo's research comes from a report in the *British Medical Journal* of a study carried out in Australia.

A team from the University of Canberra has investigated the long-term effect of drinking alcohol on Second World War veterans who continued to do this into old age. These men have been seen regularly since 1982, when their average age was 64.3.

The research has shown no association between a persistent, lifelong consumption of alcohol and the veterans' performance when, in old age, they were asked to carry out 18 standard psychological tests. The drinkers' intellects seemed to be unimpaired. Nor was there any apparent difference in the amount of brain atrophy they suffered compared with the non-drinkers.

Professor Orgogozo's research in France, the findings in Canberra and a similar survey in Copenhagen, results of which are still to be published, are encouraging. Even though there is not the same clear-cut advantage between the modest quantity drunk and the cardio-protective effect of alcohol, it would seem wise to recommend to patients that if they wanted to achieve the best chance of being the intellectual life and soul in the old people's home, they would do well to stick to two to four glasses of wine, or its equivalent, each day.

They should also continue to take a well balanced diet rich in vitamins and soluble fibre.

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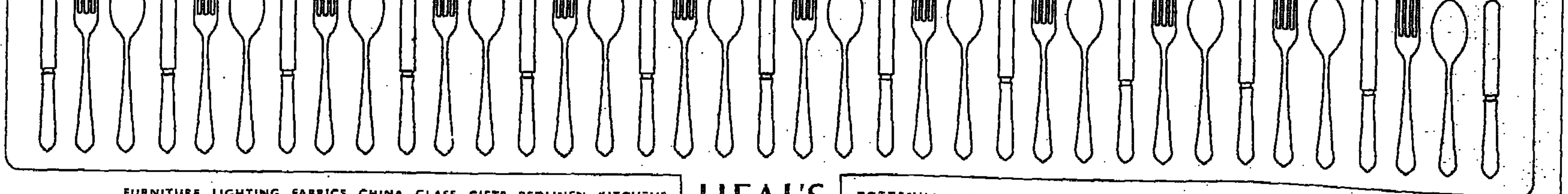

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Lavender and Chris Patten: “I am a listening post. If he wants to talk, I listen. I certainly will give advice. My main approach has been that he shouldn't worry about me. I can cope with most things; I'm quite tough”

‘I am here to hold his hand’

After the hectic role as wife of the last Governor of Hong Kong, Lavender Patten is looking forward to being her own person again. Interview by **Jonathan Mirsky**

Lavender Patten, 52 and enviably lean, sits in the chintz-formality of a Government House from which every trace of the Patten family has been scooped up by packers. The 24-hour roar of central Hong Kong is hushed by double-glazing and there are hotel-style flower arrangements. The staff in starched jackets with red tabs on their collars glide in with tea, and hover, perfectly, just out of earshot.

Soon they will be working for Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, whose necromancer has warned him that Government House has bad *feng shui*. Mr Tung will stay in his own much enlarged flat in a chic part of town and may turn Government House into a museum to hold the presents every Chinese province has sent to mark the handover. Starting on Tuesday, it will be the opposite of Patten-cosy.

“Upstairs is a mess,” says Mrs Patten. “Everything is half in and half out of cases.” Then she says, worried: “The staff are wonderful. I can't imagine what their lives are going to be like now.” Well, they certainly won't be wearing the colonial white with the red tabs.

Like most of us, Mrs Patten is two people. There is Lavender, an attractive wife and mother who is still very much in love with Chris, her second husband (who calls her “my best friend”) and who is devoted to her three daughters, Alice, 17, Laura, 22, and Kate, 24. After five years away from London she is now faced with finding a job and doing up the newly bought Victorian semi in Barnes that, from next week, will become a rather more comfortable family home than the grandiose hulk of Government House.

Then there is Mrs Chris Patten, wife of Governor Patten. “The Governess,” her friends sometimes call her to her face, although unlike some of her predecessors no one could be less governessy. She says she suspected what it would be like to be the Government House hostess, but didn't know what was coming: the constant glare of the spotlight, little privacy, snubs from visiting Beijing bigwigs, who shun Mr Patten, and insults from the Chinese press, which has called him “the whore” and “the triple violator”.

Aren't the snubs and the insults wounding? “Sometimes it made me angry. It all seemed so juvenile. I didn't take it personally. It's as if they were making it up for some reason. In Britain people can be unpleasant at a meeting, but they don't refuse to meet you. People say it's Chris who's been confrontational. But he's polite and restrained. I'd have been much angrier. It's hard to resist.”

What she minds a lot in Hong Kong is “hearing what people say behind your back and then you have to meet for dinner. That's much more difficult. In Britain you just don't meet people like that at dinner.”

Has the official hostility from China infected her encounters with local people? “No, not at all. Lots of people have apologised. ‘So sorry these things have been said.’ The public has been incredibly welcoming and friendly. There's only a small minority who appeared not to like us.”

The Pattens faced snubs and insults

In England, the public animosity from political opponents could be far more direct? “Yup, yup, very definitely. That could be quite unpleasant.” She observes, however, that in Britain she was rarely the centre of attention. “I just trotted around gently in Bath. The first time I was in the spotlight was when he lost.” One suddenly recalls the stricken faces of the Pattens on television on the night of the 1992 Tory victory in which campaign director Chris Patten was trounced in his own constituency. Could she face another campaign? She looks strained. “Well, I had a pretty bad experience the last time. One puts these things behind one.” This sounds much more like a no than her husband's answer to the same question.

She has liked Hong Kong, especially the new friends, Chinese and expatriate. “You won't believe it, but I didn't know a single soul here before I came. It's rather wonderful that in the second half of one's life, one can make good friends.”

But it was also a strain. “I had little idea what life would be like. I was faced with an enormous house with an enormous staff, an enormous range of duties. It took several months just making decisions about patronage. It's a very busy role. We had little time to ourselves and we have a young daughter who I feel I haven't been able to give as much time to as I would have liked. And then there was being away from our other daughters, on the other side of the world.”

Alice Patten, 17, is clever, hoping for three A levels so that she can go to Cambridge, and pretty enough to model part-time. All parents worry about their children, says Mrs Patten: “But Hong Kong is wonderfully safe. I didn't have to keep track of her every minute. She's managed to live a normal life. She's much calmer than I am ... I get very anxious. She's very good at hugging and leaves little messages on my desk — ‘I love you Mummy’ — it gives me a real lift.”

And she needs the lifts. She lists her roles: as wife of the Governor she appears at social and official functions and acts as hostess in Government House. She is the patron of several organisations. Hong Kong itself? “It's extraordinary. Everyone is on the move all the time, active, hard-working and out and about, enjoying themselves. But it's very tiring. You've got to be on top form.”

Her self-discipline verges on self-sacrifice. So determined is she to support her husband that she rarely, if ever, reveals to him her own worries. “I am there to hold his hand and as a listening post. If he wants to talk, I listen. I certainly will give advice. We discuss scenarios — if this happens, then what. My main approach has been he shouldn't worry about me. I can cope with most things; I'm quite tough.”

I wonder if this insistence on not worrying her husband arises from her own childhood. Her father was killed in the war, her mother married again; the stepfather paid little attention to Lavender, and then her mother was killed in a car crash. As a child, Lavender moved around a lot. “You may be right. One doesn't want to make a fuss.” But soon she says that when she's down, her husband “is very good at treats and good at giving hugs”.

On Monday night, after national flags have come down and gone up, the Pattens sail away in the *Britannia* with the Prince of Wales. So what's next for Lavender Patten? “I would like to be my own person again. I'd like to do a job of work.” She specialised in juvenile law, but may not go back to it. “I was very junior when I left and would be just as junior when I go back and the law has changed enormously in five years.” Her own long-ago divorce may be in her mind. “I'm going to look into mediation, which will require a bit of training. There's the new divorce law. I look forward to tribunal work.”

Divorce is plainly not on the cards for the Pattens. Two years ago at a dance here, I was struck by the way Chris Patten watched his wife dancing with the Commander of British Forces. He suddenly said: “Look at her. Isn't she wonderful.” It wasn't a question. “She's my best friend, you know. I was crazy about her at Oxford and I was so shy. When she married someone else I was shattered.”

Mrs Patten looks unaffectedly delighted when I tell her this. How does she remember the Oxford romance? “I think we were both very young. He was probably younger; young men often don't grow up as fast as girls. We did go out. I just think that when it might have got serious he wasn't ready and unfortunately I was looking for more security.

“My first marriage didn't work. And then I rang him up.” She must have been thinking about him, then? She gives an appreciative hmmm. “I wanted to see him again. It was five years since we last went out.”

They married in 1971. “We get on wonderfully well. We like going to the same places. We prefer to do things with each other rather than with anyone else.” She casts about for some imperfection. “Occasionally, there's a film he likes that I don't, and vice versa.” She makes this sound almost like a disloyal confession.

Listen, why don't you just e-mail me with it?

A survey says that office workers are overwhelmed with information. **Joe Joseph** puts electronic mail in perspective

A report by *(Excuse me for just a second will you ... OK, I'm back)* Gallup and the California-based Institute for the Future says *(Sorry, let me just get rid of this flashing message on my computer screen ... right, where were we?)* says that office workers are so deluged with e-mail and other communication that they barely have the time each day to get through *(Sorry about that noise, it's a fax coming through)* their workload.

The average middle-management executive sends or receives 178 messages or documents each day. A secretary's tally of e-mail, faxes, voice mail, sticky notes and pager messages tops 190 a day.

Nancy Ozawa, director of the Institute for the Future, believes that “we have passed the point where communications tools are aiding efficiency. The day is coming,” she adds blithely, interrupting us for the 68th time this morning, “when people will lie down in the road and say ‘I cannot do this any more’.”

But does the Institute for the Future know the price of every e-mail, and the value of none? If we had to handle 200 messages daily, all of them dealing with brain-clenching questions about new accounting procedures in the Denver subsidiary, then we might well be feeling overwhelmed.

But, for most people, e-mail is just the lazy man's trip to the coffee machine, which is why an average worker's e-mail printout might read something like this:

— Morning, Phil. Get a result last night? *Nigel*

— What, she did that before the waiter had even brought the starters? *Nigel.*

— Anyone who has not yet paid their contribution to the lottery syndicate will NOT, repeat NOT be included in any winnings. *Gerry*

— How exactly do you mean with the cocktail stirrer??!?! *Nigel*

— If that isn't a signal, I don't know what is. She sounds randier than her sister. *Nigel*

— Yes, that *does* include you, Phil. It's just *not* fair if, say, we win £12 million and you expect a share without even putting in your 50p. *Gerry*

‘She sounds randier than her sister’

— Phil, your wife called. *Sally*

— Do you have anything to put on the agenda for Monday's budget meeting, Phil? (Are you still available for cricket on Saturday?). *Mike*

— She didn't *say* what it was about. *Sally*

— Thanks for last night, Phil. I really, really enjoyed myself... *Amanda*

— No, I think that comes in Wednesday's European budget meeting. *Mike*

— I forgot: do you still have the team pads in your boot? *Mike*

— No, if I lent you the 50p it comes to the same thing. *Gerry*

— But why *didn't* you take the cricket bag out of the boot first, you plonker? How long do they reckon it will take to fix the gearbox? *Mike*

— No, I didn't tell her anything about your whereabouts last night. *Sally*

— Sorry about that, I had to take a call from some bloke in Korea. So do you think you'll see Mandy again, or what? *Nigel*

— Tonight? You are an energetic little boy, aren't you! *Amanda*

— Yes, but what if they *don't* manage to fix the gearbox by Friday? *Mike*

— What's all this about you and Amanda? *George*

— OK, that sounds like a reasonable Plan B. What's the garage's name? *Mike*

— Nobody! *It's* general knowledge. *George*

— Of course I haven't told anyone. What do you take me for? *Nigel*

— What the hell have you been saying, Mr Tannoy-mouth! *Amanda*

— Your wife called again. I'm sick of her thinking I don't pass on the messages to you. *Sally*

— How else would anyone have known about the mango sorbet! *Amanda*

— I'm sorry I mentioned it. Let's forget it. *George*

— And the cocktail stirrer???? *Amanda*

— My sister warned me about you. *Amanda*

— Anything cooking? *Nigel*

— A cheque for 50p, are you bonkers? *Gerry*

— Get lost! *Amanda*

— Oh, really? *Nigel*

INSIDE SECTION 2

Holy sequel!
Is *Batman & Robin* worth all the hype?
Geoff Brown's verdict

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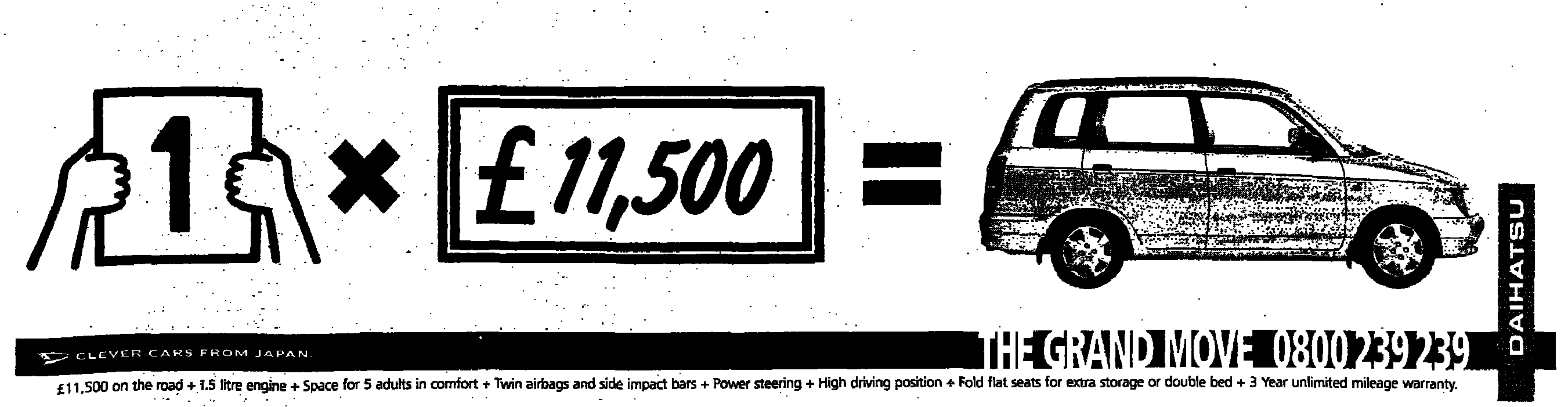

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It's time for trade to do without aid

Clare Short needn't snub British industry says **Magnus Linklater**

A young man in Zambia on the verge of starvation needs working capital to start a cycle repair business. He needs a loan on reasonable terms, some management advice, and a helping hand to get things going. Armed with that, he can transform a destitute family into a productive unit, contributing to the economy of his country, instead of draining its resources.

Simple, really. It's called sustainable development, and it is extraordinarily difficult to achieve. Bedevilled by politics, war, bureaucracy and vested interests, overseas aid has struggled to achieve that ideal with remarkable lack of success. Small agencies and charities do their best. Governments cannot seem to get it right.

Now Clare Short, Secretary for International Development, has indicated that she wants to change the entire basis of Britain's overseas aid policy. In what is seen as one of the most radical steps this Government has taken, she intends to abolish the "aid-with-strings" approach adopted under previous administrations and direct the money where it is most needed and most effective. Instead of insisting that aid is conditional on sales of British products, services and expertise, each country's needs will be judged on their merits, irrespective of the benefits for British jobs. Africa is likely to benefit, while the better-off economies of the Far East will lose out.

> **Labour first attached the strings to aid**

"Good on her," was the comment from one veteran aid expert I spoke to. "If the idea is to exclude all countries above a certain economic threshold, that's excellent, radical — and probably unworkable. But she should try."

The tangled story of aid-with-strings goes back to a previous woman minister in a Labour Government. In 1978 Judith Hart persuaded James Callaghan to push overseas aid up to its highest level — 0.52 per cent of GNP. She proposed that, in return, British business should be given the inside track on trade with recipient countries. That was taken to extremes by Margaret Thatcher, who regarded aid as a valuable weapon in "batting for Britain" abroad.

Secret deals were offered to big British companies — Cementation in Oman, Westland Helicopters in India — as part of an aid package. It became almost axiomatic that any country accepting British support found itself buying Land Rovers or installing a GEC-Marconi communications system. Sometimes it became even murkier, when arms deals were illegally involved. The row that broke over the Pergau dam affair in 1994 suggested that help given to the Malaysian Government to construct a big but questionable dam project had been closely tied to defence sales.

It also raised the rather more urgent question of why millions of pounds were being poured into the coffers of relatively wealthy countries while others languished in abject poverty. Two decades of trade-related aid has produced a lopsided policy. A report by the Overseas Development Administration last year concluded that it was costly, inefficient, and failed to give value for money.

At the same time, the bargain struck with Mrs (now Dame Judith) Hart has been brusquely dumped: aid has slumped to 0.27 per cent of GNP, and public confidence in the system has been steadily undermined.

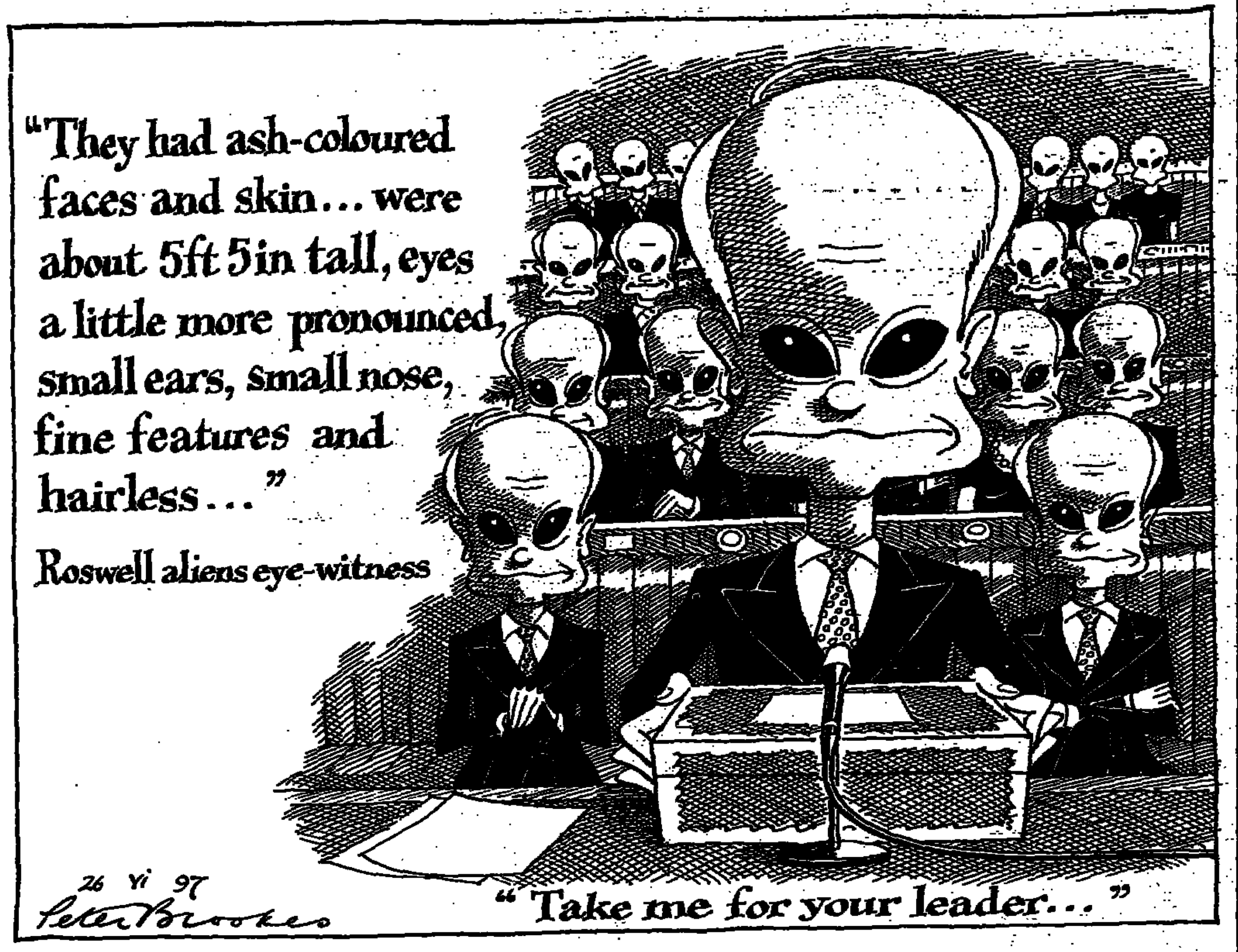
So reform is overdue. But Clare Short faces an uphill struggle. First of all, she controls only half of Britain's £2 billion overseas aid budget. The rest is channelled through Brussels, which is notoriously cumbersome and bureaucratic. But even when it comes to the remaining half of British aid, there are headaches. Should Ms Short ignore the politics of the recipient countries? Should she give to dictatorships and democracies alike, regardless of the risk that corrupt regimes will simply siphon off the money for themselves? Should she ignore the crying need of a small island community simply because the country it belongs to is relatively wealthy? And how do you help the most desperate people of all, trapped in a country racked by civil war — like Sudan or Rwanda?

The biggest obstacle, however, may lie at home. Can she ignore the outcry from British companies who will argue that jobs will be lost and trade lost to competitors if she changes track? The answer is that she should do just that.

Those companies will discover, like their Japanese counterparts, that deals will be done irrespective of aid, and that contracts will not be lost if the services are needed. But at the same time, Ms Short must not simply cut British industry out of overseas projects. The future of development depends on investment from the private sector as much as it does on Government aid. The Third World needs British goods, technology, experience, management techniques, and long-term assistance. It is more efficient and effective than anything a non-governmental organisation can provide.

It should, however, be sought and provided openly, with Parliament fully informed at the time rather than having to find out about it later. It should be done on the basis that British firms can provide goods and services that are cheaper and more efficient than their local competitors. And trade deals should not be made a condition of receiving aid.

If Ms Short can meet those objectives, and then perhaps persuade the Treasury to inch that 0.27 per cent back up towards the level it achieved 20 years ago, she will indeed have achieved something truly radical.


"They had ash-coloured faces and skin... were about 5ft 5in tall, eyes a little more pronounced, small ears, small nose, fine features and hairless..."
Roswell aliens eye-witness
26 VI 97
Peter Brookes
"Take me for your leader..."

Nemesis on Wall Street

The 1929 stock market crash doomed Ramsay MacDonald's new Government. Could it happen to Labour again?

William Rees-Mogg

Lord Beaverbrook was the greatest newspaper proprietor of his time, and one of the shrewdest political commentators. On April 30, 1929 he commented on the general election campaign in a letter to a Canadian friend. "Ramsay MacDonald is anxious at all costs to appear reasonable and moderate, and his speeches might all be made by Baldwin." The Labour leader's moderation paid off. The poll was on May 31, and Labour was for the first time returned as the largest party, with 288 seats to the Conservatives' 260 and the Liberals' 59. The Liberals under Lloyd George supported Labour, and Ramsay MacDonald formed what was then only the second Labour Government.

Labour's honeymoon was brief. On September 26, 1929, pressure on the pound sterling, which was still convertible into gold, forced the Bank of England to raise the bank rate to 6.5 per cent, an exceptionally high level for the Gold Standard period. As the dividend yield on the New York stock market was only 3 per cent, British investors, who still played an important role on Wall Street, started to sell their American stocks in order to obtain the interest rates available in London. On September 29 the panic started. By November 13, 1929, the index had fallen by 42 per cent. By March, 1932, it had fallen by 77 per cent, and was to fall even further in the banking panic of 1933.

On August 20, 1931, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England called on Ramsay MacDonald to tell the Prime Minister that the gold reserves were within a few days of being exhausted: he said that a loan could be negotiated in New York if the Government was prepared to cut expenditure, including unemployment benefits. The Labour Cabinet (but not MacDonald or the Chancellor, Philip Snowden) rejected this proposal. On August 24, Ramsay MacDonald went to Buckingham Palace, resigned as Prime Minister and advised King George V to call a meeting of the three party leaders.

As a result the National Government of 1931 was formed the next day, with Ramsay MacDonald still as Prime Minister, but with the Conservatives as the dominant party. Britain went off the Gold Standard; Parliament was dissolved; at the general election on October 27, the National Government was returned with a majority of 521. Under Baldwin the National Government won again in 1935, and lasted until Winston Churchill formed the wartime coalition in 1940.

One of the lessons of this is that shocks on Wall Street can be decisive for British politics. After 1929, everyone vowed that there must never again be so great a Wall Street crash, and there never has been. Yet such crashes have occurred in other advanced stock markets, notably in the Tokyo market after 1989; that fell by about 70 per cent from the peak, about as large a fall as Wall Street suffered in the three years after the 1929 crash. There is nothing in the organisation of late 20th-century stock markets which makes a crash impossible: indeed, some people think that the growth of derivatives makes a big crash more likely.

On Monday the Dow Jones index fell by 192 points, the second largest fall in history, so far as the number is concerned, but a relatively small fall of only 2.5 in percentage terms. On Tuesday the Dow Jones recovered by 153.8 points, or 2.02 per cent. This is the second time this year that Wall Street has had a tremor: on the first occasion the market recovered rapidly and went to new heights. These tremors do need to be taken seriously. They sometimes prove to be warnings of a major earthquake in the near future.

There is no doubt that Wall Street is very high. Judged by the dividend yield, it is the highest it has ever been, by a wide margin. Before the fall on Monday, the dividend yield on the S&P 500 index was 1.7 per cent, compared with 3 per cent at the peak in 1929. In terms of dividend yield, it would therefore take a fall of more than 40 per cent in the Dow Jones index to get back to the level immediately *before* the 1929 crash. By the bottom in 1933 the dividend yield had risen to more than 9 per cent.

This means that the Dow Jones, which peaked last week at 7,800, would have to fall to 4,400 to match the 1929 peak in terms of dividend yield, or to about 1,450 to match the bottom of the market in 1933. No bear market in Wall Street has ever come to an end without the dividend yield reaching 6 per cent. Of course the underlying cycle may have changed its character, but it is worth noting that a 6 per cent dividend yield is the present equivalent of a fall in the Dow Jones index to about 2,250.

Fortunately, there are more moderate ways of estimating the potential downside risk in the Wall Street market. Professor Tim Congdon has published his conclusions in the latest issue of the *Lombard Street Research Monthly*. He believes that "US equity valuations are stretched" and that "the surge in share prices is due to high money growth and associated excess liquidity". He measures the possible fall in terms of the bond-equity yield ratio. In 1929 it was the superior attraction of bonds which pulled money out of Wall Street and caused the crash.

"Investors have a choice between holding their wealth in equities or bonds..." Professor Congdon writes. "On average over the last 15 years the 30-year US government bond yield has been between two and a half and two and three quarter times the S&P 500 dividend yield. Until recently the only exception was in the spring and summer of 1987, but that was before the crash of 1987. At its peak in 1987 the bond-equity yield ratio was 3.5 per cent; today it is just over four... If bond yields rise and the yield ratio returns to two and a half to two and three quarters, US share prices could fall by over 30 per cent." That would take the Dow Jones index back down to below 5,500.

In 1929, the rise in the British bank rate triggered the Wall Street crash. Britain was then still by far the largest external investor in the United States. Last Monday it was the report of the speech by the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, which caused the fall. He had said that Japan faced the temptation to sell off US Treasury bills. That, of course, would make the whole US bond market fall, and would widen the bond-equity ratio, unless Wall Street fell sharply.

Wall Street has for some years been driven up by the flow of money into mutual funds (unit trusts). Most of these investors measure their return by adding together their capital gain and the dividend income. When the market is going up fast, that makes mutual funds very attractive. The dividend yield may be virtually non-existent after expenses, but a 15 or 20 per cent rise in the market is much better than the 6.5 to 7 per cent available in bonds. Yet when the market starts to go down, this process is reversed. No one knows what fall in the market would finally discourage mutual fund buyers; at some point their negative experience would be likely to bring their buying to an end. Still worse, they might be trying to get out. Markets which are overvalued do not simply return to the fair value level; they almost invariably go well below it.

The weakness in the case of the Wall Street bears is that they became too anxious too early. So far they have been wrong and the stock market bulls have been right. But the values on Wall Street are now out of line with any historical precedent in the 125 years of Wall Street statistics. There probably will be a major correction, and there certainly could be a crash. If it happens on Wall Street, it will also happen in London, though the London values are more moderate.

In 1929 the Wall Street crash, and the world depression which followed, proved fatal to the second Labour Government. A correction might not be too difficult for the ninth Labour Government to handle, though obviously a major crash could be. Yet Wall Street is very unlikely to continue its rise for the next four or five years. New Labour will face some shocks in its period of office; a Wall Street shock, at some point, is likely to be one of them.

Perfidious Albion lets Bruton go

Charles Lysaght says London will find Dublin cooler

It now looks inevitable that when the lower house of the Irish parliament (the Dail) reassembles today after the recent general election, the leader of Fine Gael, John Bruton, will be replaced as Taoiseach by the leader of Fianna Fail, Bertie Ahern. Britain will thereby lose a Prime Minister uniquely well disposed towards her, and also uniquely conciliatory towards the Unionists of Northern Ireland.

Bruton has been Taoiseach for only two and a half years. He must be counted lucky ever to have held the office. His own political stock was at a low ebb when, at the end of 1994, Albert Reynolds's Fianna Fail-Labour coalition fell apart. Labour formed a coalition with Fine Gael and Bruton, then in danger of being displaced as leader of Fine Gael, instead found himself elected Taoiseach.

There were apprehensions that this coalition would not work. There was bad blood between Bruton and the Labour leader Dick Spring, dating from Garret FitzGerald's ill-fated coalition Government of the mid-1980s, when Bruton was seen as the combative champion of the Right. In fact, helped by a bouyant economy, all went swimmingly and Bruton abandoned his former combativeness and adopted a statesmanlike demeanour. After the financial scandals that had beset the Fianna Fail Government of Charles Haughey and Albert Reynolds, it was a relief to have a Taoiseach who was universally regarded as above suspicion.

Bruton inherited the "peace process". Initially he was distrusted by John Hume and the SDLP, who feared that he would be too accommodating to the Unionists. While this rift was rapidly overcome, Sinn Fein was less happy with him than it had been with Mr Reynolds.

Bruton was blamed for agreeing initially to decommissioning of arms as a precondition of the admission of Sinn Fein to negotiations. Later he found himself in the awkward position of trying to persuade the Major Government to modify this rigid requirement in a vain effort to save the IRA ceasefire.

The collapse of the ceasefire on this issue, the volte-face in Northern Ireland at Drumcree, where a banned march was permitted, and the absence of reform of the RUC, were all blows to Bruton. It meant that he had nothing to show for his more friendly attitude towards Britain and the Unionists, symbolised by his effusive welcome for the Prince of Wales on an Irish visit, and his insistence on honouring the Irish dead of the two World Wars.

In the final weeks before the election on June 7, he returned empty-handed from London after conferring with Tony Blair. The perception that Fianna Fail would be tougher with the British and more influential in persuading the IRA to restore its ceasefire was also unhelpful to him.

He also ran into difficulties on other fronts. Malcolm Lowry, a minister, had to resign over a tax irregularity, denting Fine Gael's reputation for probity. Then, in Tipperary, Lowry stood as an independent and won: in rural Ireland the failure to pay one's taxes is not regarded as a mortal sin.

In the event, Bruton's party increased its vote, but the large losses suffered by Labour deprived him of the majority necessary to form a new Government. Having acquitted himself well both in office and in the election, he must await the swing of the political pendulum to bring him back to office. His agreement this week with Mr Blair on an independent commission to oversee decommissioning while talks proceed is a useful last legacy.

Meanwhile, Bertie Ahern will have to survive with the support of the small Progressive Democrat Party, most of whom are former members of his own party who departed in protest against the less yielding nationalism and personal style of Haughey. Their presence in government will restrain Fianna Fail from relaxing into the more republican stance that some of its backwoodsmen would favour. It is fortunate that Ahern can survive without the support of the one Sinn Fein member of the new Dail and another pro-republican independent. Although, like many in Fianna Fail, Ahern's family were once in the IRA, his own instincts are moderate.

On Northern Ireland, however, the new Taoiseach sounds less conciliatory than Bruton. Whereas Mr Bruton professed to have equal regard for both communities, Mr Ahern presents himself as the champion of the nationalist population. But hard-headed professionals on the British side appreciate that Fianna Fail enjoys the advantage of having more influence with Sinn Fein.

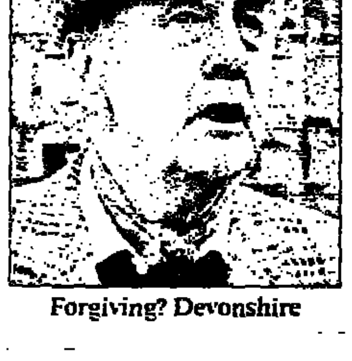
Moreover, no settlement that involves a renunciation of the claim in the Irish Constitution to Northern Ireland can be made to stick without the support of Fianna Fail. The real problem is not Dublin, but the substantial section of the Catholic population in Northern Ireland who are prepared to support Sinn Fein despite its links with the IRA.

The author, a political commentator and barrister, lives in Dublin.

Pratt's problem

THREE of London's grandest gentleman's clubs are in agonies over what to do with Jonathan Aitken. The former minister remains a member of Pratt's, the Turf and the Beefsteak — clubs which regard themselves with at least as much importance as the Privy Council from which he resigned this week.

When caught in a poke, gentleman's clubs tend to close up as tightly as shy mussels on a cold day. But they have three main options. Do they wait for him to do the right thing and tender his resignation? Do they boot the cad out for his portfolio of ungentlemanly behaviour? Or do they rally round their man?



Forgiving? Devonshire

"The best comparison is when Ludovic Kennedy requested Claus von Bülow be expelled from Brooks's when he was accused of trying to kill his wife," says Anthony LeJeune, the leading historian of London's gentleman's clubs. "Of course Von Bülow was then acquitted." Von Bülow stayed at his club, as did John Profumo, the former Minister for War, at Boodle's.

In Pratt's the final decision rests with the Duke of Devonshire, who is by all accounts a lenient man. In the others they will most likely wait for his resignation, then sit on it for a while hoping the furore goes away.

On the plus side for Aitken, should he stay in foreign parts — yesterday the tabloids were considering sending troops to South America and to Germany, to the schloss belonging to his friend Gloria Thurn und Taxis — he will be able to pay the cheaper subscriptions expected from club members resident overseas.

● *Double measures were going down at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly yesterday after the former Northern Ireland Secretary, Lord Mayhew of Twysden, was introduced to the House of Lords. Supporting him were friends from his cavalry days, Lord Elton and Lord Glenarthur. Between the three of then, they represented seven regiments — reckoned to be a new record at Westminster.*

THE TIMES DIARY

Sign here

INDIAN fiction, still riding the crest of *The New Yorker* magazine's devotion of a whole issue to it, has notched up another coup. Andrew Wiley, the literary agent known as The Jackal, has signed up Ardashir Vakil, whose book *Beach Boy* was published by Hamish Hamilton to acclaimed reviews in May. "It's very flattering," says Vakil. "Wiley's office approached me and said they would like me to come over to them. It was an offer I couldn't refuse."

However, there are some who will be less than happy about his rising stardom. Vakil is an English teacher at the Pimlico comprehensive where the pupils include the Home Secretary's son, William Straw. "I love teaching here," says Vakil, "but there is a conflict — something will have to give."

At last...

AFTER 71 long years spent ogling the post, the writer Anthony Powell, 92, was finally made a vice-president of the Society of Genealogists on Tuesday evening. A member of the society since his days at Balliol College, Oxford, Powell joins a venerable line-up of vice-presidents, including Lord Denning and the Duke of Norfolk. Prince Michael of Kent, the society's president, made the award at the society's AGM.

The position carries few responsibilities. "It is entirely an honour, with very light duties," said Anthony Camp, the society's director. "He is the oldest exisiting member and we thought that making him a vice-president would be a rather nice thing to do."

"I must have the one with the matching mine-detector, darling"

● *DISAPPOINTMENT has set in among Hong Kong's party-set after a promise by Laura Patten, the daughter of the Governor, to keep a "low profile" during the handover celebrations next week. Her demure stand by her father's side will be in stark contrast to her performance in 1992, when she mesmerised the colony by appearing at Patten's swearing-in ceremony clad in a mini-skirt and low-cut T-shirt.*

In the frame

IT was a seller's market at The Vine, a bar in north London, on Tuesday evening when some of the world's best-known fashion models, including Helena Christensen, Sophie Dahl and Iris Palmer, exhibited their art and poetry — even though the only person buying was Miss Christensen. The Danish model bought two of Jade Jagger's butterfly watercolours and an oil painting by Iris Palmer of a nude, whose curves, noted critics, owed more to Rubens than Lowry.

Indignant: Iris Palmer

Miss Palmer, who is busy growing her armpit hairs for the photographer Helmut Newton, was defensive of her work. *The Sunday Times*'s art critic, Frank Whitford, had described her painting as "poorly observed, making it difficult to believe that she attended art school". When her fellow model bought her work, priced at a mere £1,950, Miss Palmer said: "It just goes to show that Helena has got far better taste than Frank Whitford."

P·H·S

هكذا من الاول

AMSTERDAM SOUP

Europe's cooks have spoiled the summit's broth

The midnight oil that was burnt at Amsterdam last Wednesday gave out, it emerges, a flickering and unreliable light. Now that the Dutch have published the text, the post-mortem inspection of the Treaty of Amsterdam promises to be as fractious a business as was that most dyspeptic of European summits itself. All, it turns out, is not quite what it seemed.

France has again added to the gaiety of nations. President Chirac returned to Paris from Amsterdam claiming to have secured in perpetuity France's equivalent of the Ashes: treaty confirmation that the seat of the expensively peripatetic European Parliament resides in Strasbourg, 300 miles from Brussels. His boast was greeted with muffled mirth by summit-watchers in Amsterdam and London, not to mention Brussels where European taxpayers have just finished spending £850 million on the Parliament's lavish second home, the aptly nicknamed "Caprice des Dieux". No one else had any recollection of such a deal; surely, it was said, the French had a truly amazing capacity for wishful thinking.

This week, scanning the treaty text, these same seasoned operators have to wear pink faces and accept that M Chirac has the last laugh; France's deal is done, and if no one remembers nodding it through, it must be because by around 3am they were nodding off. The consolation prize for MEPs weary of the constant commuting between Strasbourg and Brussels is that, as a result of a drafting error, the summit also inadvertently extended the Parliament's powers of co-decision, giving it a veto for the first time on decisions unanimously agreed by the European Council.

The British Government, meanwhile, is puce with indignation over another little textual problem. Last week Tony Blair proudly proclaimed that while preserving Britain's border controls intact, he had secured the right to "opt in" at will to approved aspects of the Schengen regime for a frontier-free Europe. Embarrassingly, however, for the Downing Street spokesmen, that is not what the text says.

At Amsterdam, Spain, which was not alone in grumbling about Britain having its cake and eating it too, insisted that other states should have the right to veto such *ad hoc* British participation. Britain claims that Spain's demand was rejected by other European Union leaders; yet the veto power appears in the Dutch text, the legality of which Robin Cook will today set out to challenge.

If all this occasions a quiet smile by John Major, who in his last parliamentary performance as Leader of the Opposition denounced the Amsterdam negotiation as "botched and incomplete", he should not laugh too openly. Five years ago, the precise nature of what had been agreed at Maastricht was not clear until more than a month after he had triumphantly proclaimed "game, set and match" for Britain; and when the final text did appear, the victory for British negotiation looked a good deal less decisive than he had claimed.

For this diplomatic dog's breakfast it is too easy to blame the harassed Dutch, who have almost certainly made a better job of transcribing the jumble of notes and tapes than most other EU governments would have managed. The more important truth is that the Amsterdam summit was no way to do business. Too much was crammed into the agenda, because too little had been agreed by the time the leaders assembled. Addicts of the hoary metaphors about catching the Eurotrain should take note of the perils of allowing an obsession with timetables to triumph over political good sense.

It was held that to extend negotiation of this treaty beyond Amsterdam would impose unacceptable delay on the admission to the EU of Central and Eastern European applicants. But undue haste has had the same result, because Amsterdam ended in deadlock on the vital questions of reweighting national voting power and overhauling the Commission. It would have been better by far to have insisted that, even if it took more summits, leaders must persevere until there was a breakthrough.

This outcome may privately suit Helmut Kohl, whose ardour for EU enlargement has cooled markedly of late: the German Chancellor is increasingly incapable of thinking about anything except monetary union. But it is gloomy news for those with Europe's interests genuinely at heart. This treaty is not only a technical mess but a political betrayal of European democracy. It has hampered the task of enlargement which ought, as Mr Blair himself believes, to be Europe's cardinal objective.

THE GREAT DEBATE

If MPs want their speeches reported, they have to scintillate

The House of Commons has been in limbo since the election. With an interim Leader of the Opposition and a denuded and temporary front bench, the Conservative Party has not had the heart to oppose vigorously. While their leader was being chosen, Tory MPs spent more time arguing with themselves than with the Government. Ministers have been left to make policy more or less unhindered.

Now, in William Hague's words, it is time for a fresh start. The new leader engaged in his first Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. He drew little blood but will have plenty of time to improve his tactics. The bigger question is whether he and his colleagues will be able to make the House of Commons an important part of the political process in the coming five years or whether, with Labour's huge majority, it will seem little more than marginal.

Newspapers are often accused of paying too little attention to the proceedings of Parliament. It is true that none any longer has a page devoted to parliamentary debate: events in Parliament have to compete with those outside Westminster on their news merit. When debates are scintillating, they are reported at length. But more often, they are not. This is a problem which only MPs and peers themselves can remedy. The more expertise they muster, the better their oratorical skills, the more likely they are to find their speeches reported in newspapers.

But the decline in parliamentary reporting is also a reflection of the fragmentation of politics. As recently as 1956, the Commons had a virtual monopoly on political debate. Broadcasters were not allowed to host discussions on any subjects that were known to be coming up before Parliament within 14 days. Nor was any Bill allowed to be debated on the air between its laying before Parliament and its Royal Assent. Now there is a plethora of political and current affairs programmes on television and radio. The real political debate takes place in the studios of W12, not the chambers of SW1.

Politicians recognise this. Far more covetable than a slot in a debate is an invitation to appear on the *Today* programme or *Newsnight*. Gordon Brown made all his important policy speeches of the last Parliament outside the House. He reserved for the chamber itself a knockabout banter with Kenneth Clarke which may have amused but rarely enlightened.

If Parliament wants to be more newsworthy, it will have to fight hard, particularly during a period in which there is unlikely to be the drama of the Government losing a vote. Ann Taylor's proposed modernisation of parliamentary procedures should give greater scrutiny powers to select committees and standing committees. If their work becomes more interesting in the process, newspapers will devote more resources to their coverage.

But newspapers are no longer the sole conduit of information to people outside Westminster. *Hansard* and select committee reports are now available free on the Internet. A parliamentary channel is offered on cable TV. Political enthusiasts are better served than ever before. To attract the rest of the public, politicians will have to sharpen their wisdom, wit and ways of communication.

OMNIBUS TIME

When London regulations are a model for the nation

On the heels of the Prime Minister's demand for global action to reduce greenhouse gases, his deputy yesterday announced that his Environment and Transport Department is to carry out a thoroughgoing review of bus deregulation. Despite ambitious plans to revitalise the railways, build cycleways or bring trams gliding back to Britain's streets, the future of pollution reduction through public transport depends on the humble bus. With 3.7 million passenger journeys each day, buses in London still carry far more people than the Underground. They are cheap to operate, can be made to run on cleaner fuels and offer Londoners a service within about five minutes' walk from home and work. And, to the joy of tourists and those agile enough to run after a departing red Routemaster, the venerable open-ended buses, kept alive by enthusiasm and spare-part cannibalism, are still plying the capital's streets, despite the frowning disapproval of Eurocrats.

Londoners are lucky, however. The capital is one of the few cities where bus privatisation was not accompanied by deregulation — a Conservative measure that has, in most cases, been a disaster. In some cities so many companies are now competing for the profitable routes that, while the high streets are clogged, the outskirts have lost virtually all their services. Flanders and Swann noted, years ago, that these monarchs of the road "like to drive in convoys; we're most gregarious". Now they arrive not in twos or threes but six at a time, none accepting the other's tickets or timetables.

Gavin Strang, the Minister for Transport, yesterday called for more bus lanes, better information, more partnerships between operators and local authorities and more convenient interchanges. He also wants greater stability in the market. Sensibly, he said the Government had no single blueprint: local authorities could decide how buses should be regulated. In some cities, such as Exeter, operators provide a good service; in others, such as Oxford, deregulation has led to mayhem. The important aim, as the department's report suggests, is "Keeping Buses Moving". With imagination and some new technology, these sturdy old workhorses ought to be made clean, safe, swift and frequent: truly an omnibus for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Does Britain still need a separate Royal Air Force?

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I hope that the Government's strategic defence review will give serious consideration to the arguments put forward in Professor Robert Neild's letter to you (June 20) about the future of the RAF.

Current and likely future developments in the technology of electronics, optics and missiles raise doubts as to whether the sophisticated manned fixed-wing combat aircraft will for much longer be an efficient and cost-effective platform with which to undertake the principal tasks, in both maritime and land/air warfare, which it has performed in this century: that is, reconnaissance, strike and air defence.

Furthermore the existence of a third armed service has introduced aggravating complications to command and control of operations, and the communications on which that depends. There is an abundance of historical examples of that.

These complications have been intensified by the development of all aspects of electronic warfare. They call into question the desirability of retaining a service which is essentially linked to that type of platform.

Yours truly,
CARVER FM,
House of Lords.
June 20.

From Dr Philip Sabin

Sir, I believe Professor Neild's letter to be based on a misconception of the role of manned aircraft.

Although crewless systems, such as missiles, are often favoured by weaker air powers such as Iraq, manned aircraft remain far more efficient for superior air powers such as Britain and the United States. The dominance they enjoy was amply demonstrated in the Gulf War and over Bosnia, and is unlikely to be overturned in the near future.

Air power (both crewed and crewless) is the one form of military power which can completely ignore the land/sea divide — a flexibility especially important for an island nation like the UK. Splitting it between Army and Navy would create artificial obstacles where none need exist; and would also quite unnecessarily jeopardise the fine traditions on which the RAF now rests.

This would be perilous, given that the real comparative advantage which the UK enjoys in military power lies not in resources or technological capability but in the professionalism, dedication and spirit of its service personnel.

The real need is not to reopen long dead inter-service squabbles, but to build a truly joint-service approach. That will make possible the efficiencies that Professor Neild rightly desires and will allow the necessary integration of power across all the various environments — land, sea, air, space and now cyberspace.

Much progress has already been made along these lines in recent years, and I look forward to contributing further to this process through our academic input at the new Joint Services Command and Staff College.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SABIN,
King's College London,
Department of War Studies,
Strand, WC2.

From Mr Michael H. M. Hely

Sir, Before a party to a conflict can use the air to advance its aims by any method, that party must first establish air superiority or (preferably) supremacy. Likewise, success on the ground or at sea is dependent on the control of the air over the battlefield. Without such precondition, all efforts by the other arms are doomed to failure.

The recommendation of the Smuts committee of 1917, cited by Professor Neild, was based, not on a view of the war-winning effects of strategic bombing, but on the appreciation of General Smuts that:

> We should not only make every effort to secure air predominance, but secure it on a very large scale, and having secured it . . . we should make every effort and sacrifice to maintain it for the future. Air supremacy may in the long run become as important a factor in the defence of the Empire as sea superiority.

Without air superiority, the Army and the Royal Navy would not be able to carry out even the limited role the professor allows for manned aircraft, still less the roles for which they are trained and alone capable of discharging.

The winning, and then the maintenance of air superiority can only be achieved by those trained in the art and science of the use and application of air power — that is to say, only by airmen.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL H. M. HELY
(Squadron Leader, RAF (retd)),
Helions Chambers,
Pilgrims' Waye, Camps Road,
Helions Bumpstead, Suffolk.
helionslaw@aol.com
June 20.

Police discipline

From the Secretary of the Metropolitan Police Inspectors Branch Board

Sir, You briefly reported on June 12 that the Home Secretary has pledged his support to the Metropolitan Police in preventing officers from retiring on ill-health grounds when accused of serious discipline offences.

Retirements on the grounds of "ill health" and "injury awards" are governed by the Police Pension Regulation 1987 and are based on the recommendation of the Force Medical Officer. However his recommendation is only that — a recommendation — and the Police Authority (the Home Secretary in the case of the Metropolitan) "may" grant the officer an ill health or injury pension.

One could forgive the new Home Secretary for not being fully conversant with the regulations; but there are no excuses for senior officers in the Metropolitan Police for not knowing that they already have the necessary authority to prevent the alleged abuse.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN BLOWES,
Secretary, Metropolitan Police
Inspectors Branch Board,
Police Federation,
Harold Scott House,
1 Birchfield Street, E14.
June 20.

Minimum sentences

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, What you term the "principle" that the Home Secretary can fix the minimum term served by life sentence prisoners (leading article, June 13) has never been expressly endorsed by Parliament. To a large extent, present procedures derive from a ministerial statement by Sir Leon Brittan when Home Secretary in 1983, rather than from any "compact" between Parliament and people when capital punishment was abolished 18 years earlier.

Since an independent judiciary is a defining feature of a free society, it is rather odd for you to argue that political intervention in sentencing is necessary to sustain public confidence in the criminal justice system. Setting lifers' tariffs reflecting retribution and deterrence is properly a judicial function. But there should be a further right of appeal for both defence and prosecution to guard against excessive severity or leniency.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1.

Ulster talks

From Mr Tom Hewitt

Sir, Sinn Fein may not be irredeemable — the party's electoral mandate shows that they have some popular support. But the men who bear arms are beyond the pale.

Their campaigns of terror and intimidation are not directed in support of "political" objectives, but rather to further their now ingrained appetite for the proceeds of extortion, blackmail, fraud and robbery, which have become their sole *raison d'être*. They will not, therefore, willingly decommission their arms (report and leading article, June 25).

Whatever the political solution in Northern Ireland, they will need to be dealt with by policing, not politicking.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. HEWITT,
57 Albert Road, Epsom, Surrey.
June 25.

New direction for the Conservatives

From Mr Stephen Howd

Sir, Matthew Parris (June 20) asks what is the distinctive role of the Conservative Party now that Labour has apparently accepted the free market and rejected socialism. I would suggest that there is a clear answer to that question: the Conservative Party must stand first and foremost for the preservation of the United Kingdom as an independent sovereign state. This means opposing Labour's proposals to break up the United Kingdom and taking a clear line against any further moves towards European integration. With William Hague as our leader and Michael Howard as our Shadow Foreign Secretary this should now be possible.

In my view we should go further; we should offer the British people a referendum on whether we should remain in the EU or whether we should withdraw from the EU whilst remaining within the single market (the European Economic Area).

This is a perfectly feasible option which already exists and is enjoyed by a number of non-EU states. This is the policy on which we can win back the millions of natural Conservative supporters who either voted for the Referendum Party or stayed at home on May 1.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN HOWD
(Chairman, Hook Branch, Brigg and Goole Conservative Association).
Hook House,
Hook, nr Goole, East Yorkshire.
June 21.

From Sir Anthony Grant

Sir, William Hague is right to emphasise unity and loyalty (report, June 20), two qualities so spectacularly lacking in the last Conservative Parliamentary Party.

As one who served 33 years in Parliament as a Conservative MP (including 18 years on the executive of the 1922 Committee) may I suggest he will best reform the party by setting his face against the "one of us" philosophy. It was this nonsense that opened the split which so plagued his predecessor.

If he can bury it forever he may lead the sort of Conservative Party that I joined.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT,
Whiteacre,
The Chase, Oxshott, Surrey.
June 21.

From Mr Nigel Chippington

Sir, Even with their curious system for choosing a leader, why did the Conservative Parliamentary Party not elect the man who won the first two ballots, who was undisputed favourite of the Conservative constituency chairmen, and who, we are told, is the man Labour most fear?

Why did the media become so hysterical when John Redwood took the brave step of supporting Kenneth Clarke for the leadership and making a positive move for party unity? The potential power of such an alliance will never be realised, and I believe the Tories have missed an exciting opportunity. These two politicians of stature and integrity would have made this alliance work, and brought some colour and charisma into the task of opposing Labour.

I am doing my best to be a Conservative supporter, but I am puzzled and somewhat disillusioned. I wish William Hague all the luck in the world.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL CHIPPINGTON,
Winchester College,
College Street,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mrs Carole Chapman

Sir, I am concerned that Chichester Tories want Mr Hague "to earn his spurs before he's trusted at the helm" (letter, June 21). Personally, I'd prefer him to find his sea legs.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE CHAPMAN,
2 Sanders Drive, Colchester, Essex.
carole_chapman@compuserve.com
June 22.

Shot at dawn

From Mr Christopher Langdon

Sir, Your report (June 16) on the 11 wartime spies executed in the Tower of London reminded me of a story recounted by the son of Colonel Frederick George Langham, formerly the senior partner of Langham, Douglas & Co.

Frederick Langham commanded the Fifth (Cinque Ports) Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment from October 21, 1911. In the early stages of the First World War he was stationed at the Tower of London and was responsible in 1914 for the execution of the German spy, Carl Lody.

He selected a spot in the moat but found at the last moment that he was overlooked from a nearby street and a knot of spectators had collected. The place had to be changed and the execution was carried out in a miniature rifle range where no one could see.

He found this a distressing duty. While Lody was in his custody, he developed an admiration for him, considering him to be a brave, loyal and zealous naval officer who found his task as a spy highly distasteful and knew his chances of evading capture were slim.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LANGDON,
Langham House,
Albert Road,
Hastings, East Sussex.
June 16.

Aitken's fall

From Mr Anthony Evans

Sir, I note the possibility that Jonathan Aitken might cease to be a member of the Privy Council (reports, June 23, 25). I thought you kept Rt Hon to the end of the road.

Yours faithfully,
A. EVANS,
136 Crackley Bank, Chesterton,
Newcastle, Staffordshire.

Re your letter

From Mr Adrian Taylor

Sir, Recently you published a letter from professor Alec Eden (June 14) about a curious response he had received in the post to an earlier letter published in your columns. It reminded me that, when you were kind enough to publish a missive from me in 1990 on that summer's drought, I received a host of responses, some 20 in total, over the following weeks. They are now in a file in our family's archives.

I have often wondered whether others who have had letters published in *The Times* have been similarly honoured. The Professor's letter is the first indication which I have had that it may be so.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN TAYLOR,
1 Hill's Close, Corpusty, Norfolk.
June 24.

The Forth Bridge as a work of art

From Emeritus Professor Joseph Black, FEng

Sir, Melvyn Bragg, in rightly admiring the Forth Bridge as a work of art ("Real beauty in the eye of the beholder", Arts, June 23), asks whether "it was set up with little or nothing of art in the minds of their makers" and "how many engineers knew a century ago that those leaping spans . . . were an artefact of splendour and magnificence".

I believe that Sir Benjamin Baker, designer of the bridge, answered those questions almost exactly 100 years ago. According to Michael Baxendall, author of *Patterns of Intention* (Yale University Press, 1985), Baker was responding to William Morris's belief that "there never will be an architecture in iron, every improvement in machinery being uglier and uglier, until they reach the supremest specimen of all ugliness — the Forth Bridge."

Addressing the Edinburgh Literary Institute, Baker responded with a vigorous defence. He doubted whether

> . . . Mr Morris had the faintest knowledge of the duties which the great structure had to perform [or could] judge the impression it made in the minds of those who, having the knowledge, could appreciate the directions of the lines of stress and the fitness of the several members to resist the forces.
>
> Probably Mr Morris would judge the beauty of the design from the same standpoint, whether it was for a bridge a mile long or for a silver chimney ornament. It was impossible for any one to pronounce authoritatively on the beauty of an object without knowing its functions.
>
> The marble columns of the Parthenon were beautiful where they stood, but if one took one and bored a hole through its axis and used it as a funnel of an Atlantic liner it would, to his mind, cease to be beautiful, but of course Mr Morris might think otherwise.

Baker's final simple statement of faith could have come straight from the great Renaissance engineer/artist Alberti, who said: "The object has been so to arrange the leading lines of the structure as to convey an idea of strength and stability. This, in such a structure, seemed to be at once the truest and highest art."

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH BLACK,
20 Summerhill Road, Bath, Somerset.

Honours equal

From Mr A. C. Record

Sir, The Duke of Wellington (letter, June 21) and a staff sergeant belong, I admit, to different worlds. However the Duke's habit of addressing his soldiers as "Sir" still reminded me of my first morning at Mons Officer Cadet School during National Service in 1955.

When my platoon paraded, the sergeant made a few things clear. We called him "Staff", he called us "Sir".

He then added: "The only difference is — you mean it."

Yours humbly still aware of my place,
TONY RECORD,
4 Sambourne Court,
Sea Walls Road, Bristol.
June 21.

Gone with the wind

From Mr David Himsworth

Sir, Your feature (June 16) and letters (June 21) on the shipping forecast reminded me of a life-changing moment.

As a young boy I wanted to go to sea and work on trawlers. One evening I heard a shipping forecast: "Northwesterly wind force 9, veering northerly and increasing to violent storm force 11. Frequent heavy snow showers. Severe icing. Poor." The area in question was Fair Isle.

I never did go to sea.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HIMSWORTH,
Hanging Hill Farm, Kennythorpe,
Malton, North Yorkshire.

Urban dereliction

From Ms Maria Cope

Sir, Marylebone a *suburb* ("Lose at Lord's and weep at Wimbledon", June 21)? Marylebone is in the City of Westminster.

Looking at the other "ordinary London suburbs" referred to by Simon Barnes — Twickenham, Wembley and Wimbledon — I wondered how a London suburb should be defined: where do they start and where do they end?

Yours faithfully,
MARIA COPE,
135 Rossmore Court,
Park Road, Marylebone, NW1.

Under cover

From Mr Gerry Sreenan

Sir, Would it not be more appropriate, given the uncertainty as to what should be exhibited beneath the Millennium Dome, if it were instead to be positioned over Wimbledon? Surely this would prevent, in perpetuity, two notorious British washouts.

Yours faithfully,
G. SREENAN,
37 Peakes Place, Granville Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

HOTEL NEWFOUNDLAND
ST JOHN'S

June 25: The Queen this morning visited Purity Factories Limited, St John's, and subsequently visited the Newfoundland School for the Deaf.

Her Majesty afterwards visited Bowring Park and was received by the Mayor of St John's (His Worship John Murphy).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon laid a wreath at St John's War Memorial, were received by the Newfoundland and Labrador President of the Royal Canadian Legion (Mr Taylor French) and afterwards met veterans.

Her Majesty later watched a Tattoo at Signal Hill National Historical Site and sent a radio message to Bristol in the United Kingdom to commemorate the first radio message received by Guglielmo Marconi.

This evening The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained to dinner by the Prime Minister (the Rt Hon Jean Chretien) and the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador (the Hon Brian Tobin) at the Hotel Newfoundland.

His Royal Highness this morning visited Stratos Global Corporation, Mount Pearl, and subsequently visited the Ocean Sciences Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

His Royal Highness afterwards called at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club, St John's.

His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon visited St Pius X Church, St John's, and presented certificates to young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge.

Mr Hugo Brunner (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire) was present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 25: The Princess Royal today attended the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association's One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Show at the Showground, Dereham Road, New Costessey, Norwich, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (Sir Timothy Colman KG).

ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Preston and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (the Lord Shuttleworth).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited Horrocks's Centenary Mill, New Hall Lane, and was briefed by the Greater Deepdale Partnership on the regeneration strategy for Preston and for the mill and met a number of people employed in the mill.

The Prince of Wales later visited Marks and Spencer plc, Fishergate, and met a number of employees involved in local community initiatives.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, afterwards visited Preston North End Football Club and presented the 1997 Community Enterprise Awards.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon visited Moor Park County High School, met pupils and teachers and attended a Reception with representatives of local businesses which support the school.

His Royal Highness later visited Leyland Trucks Limited and toured the production line, meeting members of staff, and presented "Team Enterprise Awards".

CLARENCE HOUSE

June 25: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, was entertained at Luncheon today by the Vice-President (Brigadier Anne Field) and members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.

Miss Jane Walker-Okeover was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the presentation of Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 25: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, ICOMOS UK (International Council on Monuments and Sites), today visited Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church, Canterbury, Kent.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 25: The Duke of Kent, President, this morning visited the Headquarters of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, and was received by Major General Mark Bond (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset).

His Royal Highness this afternoon named the lifeboat *RNLB Edward, Duke of Windsor*.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, later visited Aidis Trust Headquarters, Cabot Lane, Poole.

The Duchess of Kent, President, this morning attended the Macmillan Cancer Relief Rally and the Annual General Meeting at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, London SW1.

The Earl of St Andrews celebrates his 35th birthday today.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a show to mark the 21st anniversary of the Wilton Group, Pembroke Centre, Home Farm Lane, Wilton, Salisbury, at 10.45; and will attend the Moody Midsummer Meet at the Swanwick Marina, Southampton, at 12.45.

Princess Margaret, President, English Folk Dance and Song Society, will attend a party to launch the society's new Traditional Dance publication for Schools at Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, NW1, at 2.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Trustee, the British Museum, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a dinner for the American Friends of the British Museum, Great Russell Street at 7.50.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Girls' Public Day School Trust's new Kensington Preparatory School, 596 Fulham Road, London SW6 at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent, President, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, will attend the Wimbledon Championships at 12.30; and as guest of honour will attend the Royal Television Society's 70th anniversary dinner at Bafta, Piccadilly, at 7.20.

Birthdays today

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 64; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National, 75; Sir Alan Bailey, civil servant, 66; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University, 63; Mrs June Bridgeman, former deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 65; Mr L.A. Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 70; Professor Alexander Fenton, former research director, National Museums of Scotland, 68; Mr Willie Hamilton, former MP, 80; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, 74; Lady Holland-Martin, former chairman, NSPCC, 83; Professor Ruth Kempson, FBA, linguist, 53; Mr Robert Maclennan, MP, 61; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 73; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA, economist, 75; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, 78; Professor Maurice Wilkes, FRS, computer scientist, 84; Mr Colin Wilson, author, 66; Mr David Winnick, MP, 64.

Dinners

Woolmen's Company

Mr Rex S. Johnson, Master of the Woolmen's Company, presented the Woolmen's Company 1997 Marshall Bursary to Ms Elizabeth Thomas and Ms Andrea Locke, for their work at Harper Adams Agricultural College, at the annual ladies dinner held last night at Plaisterers' Hall. Miss Judith Mayhew, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London, and Mr W. Eric Wilson also spoke. The Earl and Countess of Buchan, the Director General of the British Apparel and Textile Confederation and the Masters of the Plaisterers' and Feltmakers' Companies and their ladies were among those present.

Musicians' Company

The Master and Wardens of the Musicians' Company were the hosts at the midsummer dinner at Drapers Hall last night. Admiral Sir James Eberle was guest of honour and musical entertainment was provided by Ms Jill Morton.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion last night at the Royal Society. Dr Michael Sanderson, Dr Nicholas Tate and Mr John Berkeley were the speakers.

Defence and Security Forum

Lady Olga Maitland, President of the Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner last night at the Carlton Club. Lord Mayhew of Twysden, QC, was the guest speaker.

LIRMA

General Sir Michael Walker, KCB, CMG, CBE, Commander-in-Chief UK Land Command, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the London International Insurance and Reinsurance Market Association held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Philip Marcell, Chairman, presided. Miss Marie-Louise Rossi, Chief Executive, also spoke.

Reception

Cameroon's National Day

The High Commissioner for Cameroon and Mrs Libock were hosts at a reception at the Hyatt Carlton Tower yesterday to mark Cameroon's National Day (May 20). Ambassadors and High Commissioners were among those present.

RICHARD LEA-HAIR

The award-winning Newcastle Community Centre is a venue for many activities

Village hall opens new vistas

By John Young

THE traditional village hall may be in decline, but a small community in southwest Shropshire has shown the way to replacing it with something altogether more ambitious, at a cost of nearly £500,000.

Yesterday the Newcastle Community Centre received from the Prince of Wales the annual Charles Douglas-Home Award, *named after a late Editor of The Times*, as the overall winner of the Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by *The Times* and Deloitte & Touche.

Villages in England do not come much more isolated than Newcastle on the edge of Clun Forest near the Welsh border. There is no public transport, and the lack of social and cultural amenities was until recently compounded by the fact that the 50-year-old wooden village hall was on its last legs, increasingly expensive to repair and maintain and deemed to be a fire risk.

In late 1993 a meeting of villagers decided to explore possible sources of funds for a larger, modern building on a new site, which would provide cultural, sporting, social and educational activities for all age groups.

South Shropshire District Council gave a substantial grant and professional advice, and further funding came from the European Community and the Rural Development Commission.

The main building, designed to fit sympathetically into an area of natural beauty, was opened on September 1 last year. It contains a large hall for concerts, dances and other functions, lounge, activities rooms for young people, childcare facilities, and a computer centre used for job training and to assist the self-employed, particularly farmers.

Lottery funding has been received through both the Arts Council and the Sports Council, and the management committee is engaged in raising further funds to match a £30,000 grant from the Countryside Commission to convert an adjoining field into a village green. The project is already partly self-financing and is intended to become wholly so by the start of the new millennium.

The centre's main building, which opened last year

This year's awards competition has for the first time been divided into "large" and "small" categories. The winning small project is the provision of a laundry and community room, run entirely by volunteers, on the huge Beech Court housing estate in Salford. More than just an amenity, the "Dolly Tub" provides a meeting place for residents, many elderly and infirm and living alone.

THE TIMES/DELOITTE & TOUCHE • COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AWARDS •

The cost of just under £60,000 has been met by a grant from the Government's single regeneration budget and by gifts from charities and local businesses. A modest enterprise it may be, but it clearly meets a social need and exemplifies the initiative which for more than a decade the Community Enterprise Awards have tried to encourage.

Regional awards were:

North East: Sedgefield Out of School Club, South Durham Hospice.

North West: Second Time Round (Charleston community business).

Yorkshire and Humberside: Manor Development Scheme, Sheffield.

West Midlands: Sandwell Food Co-operatives.

East Midlands: Matlock Bath Youth Centre.

London: 198 Gallery, education and training resource centre, Brixton. Upper Room (St Saviour's with St Mary's).

South East: Crawley open house and resource centre. "Tonix" young people's drop-in centre, Alresford.

South West: Astor Community Centre, Plymouth. Talaton Shop and Post Office, Devon.

Wales: Track 2000, South Glamorgan. Coed Cae Community Centre. The Arts Factory.

Scotland: Lewiston Nursery. The Big Project.

Northern Ireland: The Share Holiday Village.

Regional sponsors were: North West, Kellogg's; South East, John Laing Construction; London, United Biscuits; Scotland, Quik-Fit; South West, South West Electricity Board; Wales, Midland Bank, Community Enterprise Wales; Northern Ireland, Deloitte & Touche/Bank of Ireland.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.N. Bramwell and Miss J.A.L. Roberts

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Bramwell, of Rothley, Leicestershire, and Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Roberts, of Bodle Street Green, East Sussex.

Mr C.H.P. Cripwell and Miss G.J. Adams

The engagement is announced between Hal, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cripwell, of Almeley, Herefordshire, and Gina, elder daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs John Adams, of Burghclere, Hampshire.

Mr A.T. Dixon and Miss C.R. Beatty

The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of the late C.J. Dixon and of Mrs C.P. Kirton (formerly Mrs C. Dixon), and Charlotte Rose (Rosie), only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.S. Beatty, both of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr R.O.B. Gardner and Señorita A. Peña Rada

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Gardner, of York, and Alicia, eldest daughter of Don José Luis Peña Guezala and Donna Maria del Carmen Rada Justo, of Las Rozas, Madrid.

Mr P. Glynn-Jones and Miss S. Thomas

The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr Geoffrey Glynn-Jones, of Forge House, Eversley, and Mrs Lorna Glynn-Jones, of Leat House, Sowton Village, and Samantha, daughter of the late Mr Gerald Thomas and of Mrs Thomas, of The Oaks, Beaconsfield.

Captain R.R. Philipson-Stow and Miss C.N.H. Fraser

The engagement is announced between Captain Robert Philipson-Stow, The Blues and Royals, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Philipson-Stow, of Pendock, Worcestershire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Baughurst, Hampshire.

Mr K.S. Haywood and Miss F.K. Stalley

The engagement is announced between Keith, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Haywood, of Sandton, Johannesburg, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Stalley, of Ascot, Berkshire.

Dr W.G. Liddell and Dr M.M. MacDougall

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Adrian Liddell, of Westover Farm, Hampshire, and Morag, daughter of the late Mr Colin MacDougall and of Mrs Susan MacDougall, of Wells, Somerset.

Mr N.R. Mayo and Miss I.R. Nunes

The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Mayo, of Guildford, Surrey, and Iona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Nunes, of Sanderstead, Surrey.

Mr M.J.F. Pugsley and Miss C.L. Thomas

The engagement is announced between Martin John Follett, second son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs John Pugsley, of Plympton St Maurice, Devon, and Catherine Louise, daughter of the Rev Theo and Mrs Thomas, also of Plympton St Maurice.

Marriages

Mr T.I. Dale-Harris and Mrs R.J. Wiggin

The marriage took place quietly, in Guernsey, on Tuesday, June 24, 1997, of Mr Tim Dale-Harris to Mrs Rosemary Wiggin.

Mr R.G. Waggott and Señorita M.A. Suárez Lena

The marriage took place on June 21, 1997, in El Puerto de Santa Maria, of Mr Roger Waggott, son of Mr Graham Waggott and the late Mrs Barbara Waggott, of Dormansland, Surrey, to Señorita Maria Ana Suárez Lena, eldest daughter of Don Luis Suárez Avila and Donna Josefa Maria Lena de Terry,* of El Puerto de Santa Maria, Cadiz, Spain.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist and inventor, Belfast, 1824; George Edward Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, archaeologist, 1866; Pearl Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Hillsborough, West Virginia, 1892.

DEATHS: Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of the Inca empire, murdered, Lima, Peru, 1541; Gilbert White, clergyman and naturalist, Selborne, Hampshire, 1795.

The Victoria Cross was first awarded by Queen Victoria to 62 servicemen at a ceremony in Hyde Park, London, 1857.

King Edward VII opened the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 1909.

Geoffrey Parkhouse

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Geoffrey Parkhouse will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday, July 29, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets, for this service only, to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 29, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped (first class) addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from July 21.

Luncheon

Carlton Club

Viscount Cranborne was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Goswell, chairman of the committee, presided. Mr Richard Simmens also spoke.

Service dinners

HMS Victory

Colonel Ahmed Yousef Al Mulla, Commander of the Kuwait Navy, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night on board *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, was the host.

The King's Regiment

Members of The King's Regiment Officers' Dinner Club and their ladies attended the annual luncheon held yesteray at the Royal Defence Medical College, Millbank. Brigadier J.J. Gaskell, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

Mountain Artillery

Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Mountain Artillery Dinner Club held last night at the Army & Navy Club. Major-General D.B. Egerton presided.

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The word of the Lord holds true and all his work endures. He is a lover of righteousness and justice; the earth is filled with the Lord's unfailing love. Psalm 33 : 4,5

BIRTHS

AUNGLES - On 1st June, to Kate (née Chadder) and Glenn, the blessing of a son, Harvey Chadder James.

BARROWCLIFF - On 12th June 1997 in Lyon, to Isabelle (née Magne) and Grégoire, the gift of a daughter Constance Emma Marie.

CRAWLEY - On 19th June, to Belinda (née Rowland) and Nicholas, a son, Edmund William, a brother for Bertie and Tilly.

DAWSON - On June 21st at the Hospital of St John & St Elizabeth, to Carola and Kevin, a fabulous son, Tommas, a brother for Kai.

FORSYTH - On June 21st 1997 in Singapore, to Sally (née Eliot) and Angus, a son, Dougal Angus Nicholson.

LASOK - On June 18th, to Karen (née Griffith) and Paul, a daughter, Anna Zofia Christina, a sister for Frances.

SHARROCK - On June 24th to Leonie and Brian, a son.

SHORT - On 24th June 1997 in Eastbourne, to Karen Margot (née Munnich) and Carl, a daughter, Charlotte Alexandra Felicia, a sister for Alexander.

WHITE - On 20th June, to Adele (née Neale) and Alistair, a beautiful daughter, Clara Rose.

WHITE - On June 9th, to Lisa (née Whitaker) and Michael, a beautiful daughter, India Grace.

WHITMORE - On June 22nd at The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, to Lucy (née Dickens) and William, a son, James Alexander Dickens.

WHITTOME - On June 11th 1997, to Lucy (née Broke) and Ashley, a son, Vere Orlando Abinger.

ANNIVERSARIES

WILSON - David and Pam of Solihull, 26th wedding anniversary. We just spent a whole year celebrating our 25th for which we thank God - and we intend to continue.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

AYERS:HOROWITZ - In Ironbridge, Shropshire, on 26th June 1947, Bill to Renee, now happily living in Bath.

DEATHS

ACTON - On 25th June Winifred Margaret of Markham. Much loved mother of Iris and Rex, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on Monday 30th June. Short Service at the house at 3 pm followed by cremation at the Gwent Crematorium at 4 pm. No flowers.

BEALE - On 24th June 1997 peacefully at home Gilbert Alexander aged 80 years of Blandford, Dorset. Dearly loved husband of Pamela. Funeral private. Donations if desired for the Macmillan Nurses c/o Colin J. Close Funeral Service, 18 Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset. tel: (01258) 453133.

BEER - Charles Graham Abbott very peacefully on 23rd June. Loved and loving husband of Sara, father of Charles and Verena and grandfather of his 10 grandchildren. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Eversley, on Thursday 3rd July at 2.30pm. Garden flowers only or donations if desired to Fairbridge c/o Geo. Parker & Sons, Funeral Directors, 113 Reading Road, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 7LR, tel: (01252) 872297.

COOLING - John Hilton of Hampstead died in his sleep on Tuesday 24th June. The Funeral will be on Friday 4th July at 11.30 am at Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row. Family flowers only. Private cremation. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

CRAWFORD - Peacefully on June 24th, 1997, Alfred F.I.C.E., aged 96. Very loved husband for 64 years of Pat. Devoted father of Janet and the late James and Roger. Loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service to be held on Wednesday 2nd July at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth (Memorial Chapel) at 12.15pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to The British Red Cross may be sent c/o Masters and Son, 4 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2LB. (01444) 482107.

FROST - Henry Francis (Harry). Peacefully at home on Wednesday 18th June 1997 aged 82. Sometime Director of Research, Union International, widower of Kay, father of Elisabeth Morgan, Janet Young and David, and grandfather of Richard, Huw, Edward, Tamsin, Toby, Harry and Tallulah, friend to many. Cremation private. Memorial meeting to be held at Friends Meeting House, Hemel Hempstead, Herts later. Letters to 25 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2QS.

GARDINER - On June 24th after a long illness, Patrick Lancaster, beloved husband of Susan, father of Josephine and Vanessa, grandfather of Jessie. Funeral private. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

GREEN - Bernard Joseph of Chipping Campden, Glos. Peacefully on June 25th, 1997, aged 84 years. Formerly doctor and surgeon to the Foreign, Colonial and Home Offices. For details of funeral arrangements telephone (01386) 840025.

HOLT - Richard Gordon, solicitor, of Tickhill, Yorkshire died tragically on 17th June aged 49 years. Dearly loved husband of Helen and darling daddy of Jenni and Matthew. Funeral on 2nd July, 11.30 am at *Sheffield Cathedral* followed by private crematorium. Family *flowers* and cards only, please. Donations if desired to Alton Abbey, Hampshire. Memorial Service to be held in London. A much loved and respected man, may he rest in peace.

JARVIS - John *Francis* Jarvis, OBE, MSc, BA, aged 61, died suddenly but peacefully on Saturday 21st June at The Princess Helena College, of which he was Headmaster. Air Commodore Royal Air Force (rtd). The Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 1st July at 2 pm, at St Paul's Walden, Hertfordshire, followed by private cremation. Flowers, or donations to the British Heart Foundation. The date for a Service of Thanksgiving will be announced later. All enquiries and donations to W. Austin & Sons, Stevenage, tel: (01438) 316623.

JERRAM - On 24th June 1997 suddenly at his home in Cobham, Surrey, Nigel Jenner Jerram, beloved husband to Eileen and much loved stepfather and grandfather. The Funeral Service will be held at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Wednesday July 2nd at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Buttle Education Trust c/o James & Thomas Funeral Directors, Mill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL.

KEVILL - Eleanor peacefully in her sleep on June 23rd 1997, devoted wife of the late Roger Kevill, beloved mother of Mary-Joyce, Celia and Roger (Tom). Enquiries to H & G Wilde Funeral Directors, Preston. tel: (01772) 335974.

LESLIE MELVILLE - On 23rd June 1997 The Hon. George David, greatly loved husband of Didie and father of Annabel and James, suddenly as a result of a heart condition. Private funeral. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later.

MAXWELL OF ARDWELL - On June 23rd 1997 at home Colonel F. Gordon Maxwell, CBE, O St J, TD, aged 92. Beloved husband of True Hamilton Maxwell, father of David and John and stepfather of Christine Mitchell Innes. Much loved grandfather of 9 grandchildren. Funeral at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, SW1 on Friday July 4th at 11 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only; but if desired donations to the London Scottish Regimental Benevolent Fund, 95 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2DX.

MEIKLEJOHN - Hope Christian. Peacefully at Winscombe Hall on Friday June 20th aged 95 years. Funeral Service at St Michael and All Angels Church Rowberrow on Wednesday July 2nd at 12 noon. Flowers or donations for Bristol Childrens Hospital may be sent to C.V. Gower & Son, Funeral Directors, The Square, Winscombe, North Somerset. Tel: (01934) 842946.

ODLING - Major General William Odling CB, OBE, MC, DL, died peacefully at home on June 22nd aged 88. Beloved husband of Margaret, father of Anne Hughes, Tony, and Lizzie Dumas, grandfather of 5 and with 1 great-grandson. Funeral 3rd July at 2.30 pm. St Andrews Church, Fingringhoe, Colchester. No flowers by request.

PRICE - Joan Price MBE, on 22nd June 1997, shortly before her 92nd birthday. Funeral at Greensted Church, Ongar, at 2.15 pm on Monday 30th June. Enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79-81 South Street, Bishops Stortford, tel 01279 655477.

STUART WILSON - On June 21st, 1997, Major Thomas (Sam) Stuart Wilson, T.D., 1st Mons. in his 90th year. Dearly beloved husband of Greta for 62 years, adored father of Simon and Bryony, loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service on Monday, June 30th at 3pm Meline Church, Felindre Farchog, Pembrokeshire. Enquiries to J. Jenkins & Son (01348) 873076.

TURNER - Arthur Montague on 24th June after a long illness patiently borne. Dearly loved husband of Jane (née Janet Newbery). Loving father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Torquay Crematorium on Tuesday 1st July at 2 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Oxfam c/o Perring Funeral Services, 101A High Street, Totnes, Devon, tel: (01803) 862417.

WELLS - June Kipling at Elstree on 20th June after a long illness. Sister of Gwen Anscomb (Canada), Richard Davies (Tasmania) and Owen (deceased). All enquiries Treeves Funeral Services, (0181) 953-1444.

WILSON - See Stuart Wilson.

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OBITUARIES

JACQUES-YVES COUSTEAU

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, underwater explorer and film-maker, died yesterday in Paris aged 87. He was born on June 11, 1910.

A generation well-nigh glutted on multi-part television ecological spectaculars will inevitably find it hard to imagine the immense impact made by Jacques-Yves Cousteau's film *The Silent World* when it burst on astonished cinema audiences in 1955. In it, Cousteau led a magical adventure into an unknown world. The shimmering forms of leaping dolphins filmed from the hollow glass dome under the bow of his converted minesweeper *Calypso* are vivid in the memories of those who first saw them, even after 40 years. The book of the same title which had spawned the film became a runaway world bestseller, to date selling more than five million copies in 20 languages.

It may justly be said of Cousteau that he single-handedly converted marine science from a dark backroom minority interest into a popular science. He also recognised its political appeal. In the later years of his life he changed his stance from that of the effective "father" of underwater hunting (through his development of the aqualung) to that of the articulate conscience of environmental concern.

This did not always go down well with his fellow marine scientists, many of whom felt that his activities were closer to those of Walt Disney than to the work of men like Harald Sverdrup or Richard Fleming. Many scientists heartily resented his impact on the media, and on politicians and public attitudes. It seemed to some of his contemporaries that, while physical oceanographers strove to understand the circulation of the oceans, and marine geophysicists unravelled plate tectonics, the spotlight was always on a French diver in a tropical lagoon.

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born at St André de Cubzac, a small town not far from the Gironde. Conventional schooling bored him, and he was expelled for breaking 17 of his school's windows. He entered the Ecole Navale at Brest in 1930. His training and early cruises as a young officer took him to China, French Indo-China and the Soviet Union, including work off the coast of Siberia.

He served in a number of warships up to 1942, and was trained as an air observer for the French Navy. He had intended to make naval aviation his career but a near-fatal car crash put paid to that ambition and set him on a new course. Swimming vigorously, as therapy for badly damaged and wasted arms, he discovered the element of water which was to dominate his life.

In 1937 Cousteau learnt to dive with closed-circuit oxygen equipment of the type used for escaping from submarines. This equipment was later developed by the principal navies in the Second World War to form a diver attack breathing set for sabotage, mine clearance and beach surveillance. The equipment was limited to a safe maximum depth of 10-15 metres, because pure oxygen becomes poisonous at this pressure. Cousteau was familiar with the work done by Gilpatric, Taillez, Yves le Prieur, Dumas, Corlieu and others, and gradually perfected the mask and fins which were used by spearfishermen on the French Riviera during the 1930s.

In 1939 Taillez, Dumas and Cousteau were already experimenting with an underwater ciné-camera and Yves Le Prieur's air-breathing system. After the fall of France in June 1940, the group continued its researches under very restricted conditions. Movie film was made into suitable lengths by joining hundreds of rolls of ordinary 35mm cassettes. Spear-fishing provided valuable extra food. The group's first film, *Par dix-huit mètres de fond*, was completed in 1942. Cousteau at this time was also leader of a counter-intelligence group in the Resistance, for which he was later awarded the Légion d'honneur.

In June 1943 the first automatic demand valve air breathing aqualung was perfected jointly by Cousteau and Emile Gagnan. The key patentable principle of the invention was a valve which supplies air with very slight suction from the swimmer, and an exhalation valve immediately adjacent to the inhalation valve. The inhalation and exhalation pressures were thus balanced, and the diver could breathe with very little effort. Also, because the inhalation and exhaust pressures were identical, the valve could be made very sensitive, with no risk of the air free-flowing to waste, no matter what position the diver occupied in the water. During that summer Cousteau, Dumas, and Taillez logged 500 dives between them, with a maximum depth of 60 metres.

After the end of the war the aqualung (or, in American terminology, SCUBA — the Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) became a popular item of sports equipment, with tens of thousands of sets being sold in California alone. Sports divers today are counted in millions.

In 1944 Cousteau formed, with Taillez, the Groupe d'Etudes et Recherches Sous Marine of the French Navy at Toulon, the first unit of its type to develop diving equipment of all kinds. Although Cousteau was not the only innovator in this fertile field, he and his teams of engineers were directly involved in many early experiments with underwater television, underwater lighting, colour photography and ciné-photography underwater, and, by the mid-1960s, the first experiments in living underwater at ambient pressure. In 1959 Cousteau launched the first modern and truly manoeuvrable small submarine, the so-called Plunging Saucer, which started a new industry.

Preparing to dive: Cousteau being helped into his Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus off Monte Carlo in 1965

The converted diving tender *L'Ingenieur Elie Monnier*, acquired in a derelict state at the end of the war, was Cousteau's first research ship. In 1951 he was granted leave from the French Navy to conduct scientific research, and converted a former Royal Navy minesweeper into the diving research vessel *Calypso*. Thus began a long series of cruises supported by scientific laboratories, the French Navy, the American National Geographic Society and various private sponsors. A combination of scientific investment and commercial sponsorship, with sale of film and television rights, kept the enterprise solvent. Research and filming expeditions extended across the Indian Ocean, the Pacific coral reefs, and even beneath the Antarctic ice.

The book of *The Silent World* was published in 1953. In simple, unassuming terms, the story of his early struggles was told with photographs of the undersea world in colour. It inspired a generation of young people, who took up diving as a sport or used diving in underwater research or engineering. The story projected a simple craftsman's love of the sea. With a combination of bravery, adventure, luck and ingenuity, Cousteau and his comrades survived and triumphed over everything — sharks, storms, gas poisoning and underwater explosions. This amalgam of totally professional planning and seemingly artless modesty in presentation became the Cousteau trademark.

The film of the same name was a feature documentary using the most up-to-date technology, and was not intended to narrate the same story as the book. It won the Grand Prix of the 1956 Cannes Film Festival and the 1957 Oscar for feature documentaries.

In 1956 Cousteau was invited by the Comité International de Perfectionement de L'Institut Océanographique de Monaco to become its director. The famous laboratory, founded by Prince Albert I of Monaco, had sunk into poverty. Cousteau was faced with the enormous task of attracting investment, promoting public interest, and improving both the research programmes and the public exhibits.

The appointment was controversial, since Cousteau was not, and did not claim to be, an academic. With typical energy he expanded the aquarium, attracted foreign students and scientists and launched an ambitious series of cruises and research projects.

The initial patent of the aqualung was exploited by licensing in many countries, and a series of companies grew up marketing a range of diving gear, suits, masks, lifejackets, and commercial diving equipment for the offshore oil industry. The first experiments in underwater living were conducted in 1962 in the Bay of Marseilles at a depth of ten metres. This was followed by the construction of two underwater houses in the Red Sea in 1963, and finally a large spherical underwater habitat at a depth of 100 metres off Villefranche in 1965. The intention of this last experiment was to demonstrate to the offshore oil industry that divers could live and work for days or weeks at depths of 100-200m and conduct heavy industrial work.

Numerous countries and companies copied these projects, but the development turned out to be an evolutionary dead-end. Although the idea of living beneath the waves is fascinating, the logic of economics dictates that it is always cheaper to bring divers to the surface and store them under pressure in a deck decompression chamber between dives.

During the 1960s and 1970s television series followed one another with almost predictable success. Cousteau, who made more than 150 films, was synonymous with the sea, with research in the ocean and with an environmental consciousness that longed to save the planet from pollution. In 1973, with a fanfare of publicity, he declared himself totally opposed to spearfishing, the sport — or search for food — which had nurtured the first divers on the French Riviera in the 1930s.

During the 1970s the controversy over his position as a scientist and publicist became more intense. In August 1979 the death in a plane crash of his son and presumed successor in the underwater world, Philippe, was a terrible blow. Several projects went wrong. Managing the Cousteau commercial empire and the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco was an immense task for a man over 60. In 1972 the plan to build a huge diver-lock-out submarine, called the *Argyronète*, was abandoned amid financial recriminations and government intervention.

Criticism of Cousteau's stand on environmental issues became more acute. Put simply, the allegation was that he used the good name of science to justify his expeditions and filming, and then exploited the public's longing for simple solutions to environmental problems to make money. The BBC conducted an interview programme in the mid-1970s entitled *Will the Real Captain Cousteau Please Stand Up?* In it, science journalists interrogated Cousteau before an invited audience of environmentalists and scientists.

Under this unrelenting scrutiny, Cousteau defended himself extremely well. He stated over and over again that he was not a scientist. He said that he saw himself as an engineer turned impresario, a man who could make things happen, who could give others the chance to discover truth and to change the world. At the end, the impression was that Capitaine de Corvette Jacques-Yves Cousteau knew exactly what he was doing, and was neither a hypocrite, nor self-deceiving.

Even at the end of his life Cousteau showed no signs of slowing down. He was a vociferously energetic opponent of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. He had recently commissioned a successor to *Calypso* (which sank off Singapore in 1996 after a collision with a barge): the custom-designed and ecologically sound *Calypso II*.

Cousteau's great achievement was to create the popular image of the science of the sea. His craggy wizened face in half-lit profile was sufficient to market any product, expand the membership of any society, hype the sale of any book, promote any film. His books and films on the sea seemed to dominate the world of popular science and ecology with the same total obliterating effect of Walt Disney in cartoon films. After a while, there was no one else left in the competition.

At the technical level many of his innovations — the aqualung, the miniature submarine and high-quality underwater filming — were immensely creative. The underwater living experiments were a technical *tour de force*, even if eventually they led nowhere. Cousteau the image-maker was unique, both in the literal sense of creating moving pictures, and in the sense of touching the hearts and minds of millions with his ideas. Everybody who could read a newspaper or book or watch a television set knew that Cousteau had said the sea was important; that we must love the sea, protect it, care for it, explore it, farm it and nurture it. He changed the way in which people saw the planet: not so much Planet Earth as Planet Water.

Cousteau is survived by the elder son, Jean-Michel, of his marriage, in 1937, to Simone Melchior, who died in 1990. The relationship between father and son had lately been soured by what Jacques-Yves saw as the latter's commercial exploitation of the Cousteau name in a Fijian eco-vacation resort. Cousteau married, secondly, in 1991, Francine Triplet, and is survived also by her and by their son and daughter.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at the Homestead Court Hotel, Homestead Court, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 4LX on Wednesday 2 July 1997 at 3.00 in the afternoon for the purpose of considering a report on the events leading up to the appointment of joint administrative receivers, progress in the receivership and if the creditors wish, to elect a committee to represent the creditors.
Dated this 17th day of June 1997.
R J Bees
Joint Administrative Receiver
NOTES
1 A creditor will be entitled to vote at the meeting only if details of the amount claimed to be due from the company have been lodged with me at Price Waterhouse, Victoria House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY no later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting and the claim has been admitted in accordance with the Insolvency Rules 1986.
2 Creditors may vote either in person or by proxy and a form of proxy is included herewith. A proxy should be lodged with me, if possible before the meeting.
3 A company may vote either through a representative producing a certified copy of a Board resolution appointing him, or by proxy.
4 A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debt deducting the value of his security as estimated by him. He must lodge in accordance with note 1 a statement giving the particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which he assesses it. Creditors who are wholly secured are not entitled to be represented or to vote.

CANNON BRIDGE INVESTMENTS LIMITED
AND
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THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Companies by the Creditors on 3rd June 1997.
DATED THIS 3RD JUNE 1997
Peter S Dunn FCA
Liquidator

Professional Environmental & Caring Services Q.A. Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Ronald Frost of Moore Stephens Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1EF, give notice that on 19 June 1997 I was appointed Liquidator of Professional Environmental & Caring Services Q.A. Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.
Dated: 19 June 1997
Ronald Frost, LIQUIDATOR

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF CAPITAL
WEB PUBLICITY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
1. The above named Company ("the Company") has approved payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase.
2. The amount of permissable capital repayment for the shares in question is £66,000.
3. The date for the Resolution for payment out of capital is 25th day of July 1997.
4. A Statutory Declaration and Auditors Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's Registered Office.
5. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the 5 weeks immediatley following the date of Resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an Order prohibiting the payment.
Company Secretary
Dated the 20th day of June 1997

The Insolvency Act 1986
OFFICE KEY LTD
and
SMALL TALK LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Companies will be held on 21st July 1997 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts, at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Companies affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 20th day of June 1997
By Order of the Board
Darren King, Director

ORCHARDCLOSE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that on 30th April 1997 B A Segal of A Segal & Co. Albert Chambers, 221-223 Chingford Mount Road, London, E4 8LP was appointed Liquidator of the above named company by the Members.
B A Segal (Liquidator)

LEISURE ADVENTURE LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Chantrey Vellacott, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5LF on 4 July 1997 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5LF between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated 4 June 1997
By Order of the Board
P L Jinks, Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878 OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

RENÉ TAYLOR

René Taylor, expert on Spanish architecture and art, died on May 28 aged 80. He was born on December 9, 1916.

A DISTINGUISHED Hispanicist, René Taylor was better known in Spain and the Americas than in his own country.

In the early 1960s he was appointed curator of the Ponce Art Museum in Puerto Rico, a small collection exhibited in a beautiful old house. Under Taylor it expanded greatly and moved to purpose-built quarters designed by the American architect Edward Stone. Tourists came from all over the world to admire exhibits ranging from pre-Columbian pottery to contemporary Puerto Rican painting, and from exquisite examples of Italian Baroque to a fine collection of Dutch and Flemish art.

René Claude Taylor was born in north London, but his father was a travel agent who was later based in Barcelona, and René grew up in Spain and spoke the language fluently. His mother was a painter.

He was sent back to England to be educated at the Roman Catholic Beaumont College, Windsor. After leaving school he returned to Spain to study at the University of Barcelona. But when the Spanish Civil War broke out, he returned to England and took an external degree in Spanish at London University.

During the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Corps, being entrusted with the task of determining the tides, so that the body of the "Man Who Never Was" could be floated ashore on the Spanish coast from a submarine. In one of the great deceptions of the war, the corpse, which purported to be that of a British officer, carried fake plans for an Allied invasion of Greece in the summer of 1943, so disguising the true intention of invading Sicily. Handed over to the Germans by the Spanish, the Man Who Never Was fooled the Axis powers, who needlessly reinforced Greece and left the defences of southern Sicily relatively unprepared.

When the war was over, Taylor — by this time married and with a family — was anxious to go back to Spain to pursue his studies. He wrote to Nikolaus Pevsner and asked him for his advice, and Pevsner suggested that he go as soon as possible, while his children were still young.

Accordingly, Taylor set off with his wife Constance and their three girls, all under the age of six, and began to study Andalusian Baroque architecture with great determination, gaining a PhD in the process.

The couple both taught English at Granada University, and Pevsner entrusted Taylor with the task of amplifying and translating his *Outline of European Architecture* for its Spanish edition, published in 1957.

Taylor also lectured for the Hispanic Society of America, and was visiting professor at Columbia and Yale universities. It was on a lecture tour in 1961 that he travelled to Puerto Rico, where he met Luis Ferré, a patron of the arts and later Governor of the island. Ferré invited him to become curator of the Ponce Art Museum. Taylor travelled to Europe to buy works, particularly sculpture, of the Spanish Baroque and English Pre-Raphaelite paintings. One of his acquisitions was *Flaming June* by Frederic (Lord) Leighton and Burne Jones's painting of the death of King Arthur.

Taylor wrote several books, including *Arquitectura Andaluza* (1978) and works on Baroque plasterwork in churches and on the Sevillian carver.

His first marriage, to Constance Baker, which produced four daughters, was dissolved in 1979. He then married Lydia Argentina Santos.

ON THIS DAY

June 26, 1926

Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931) gave a farewell concert in the Albert Hall that was far from dominated by "the sadness of farewell" and included Home Sweet Home, *sung to her own accompaniment.*

MELBA'S FAREWELL.
LAST CONCERT AT THE ALBERT HALL.

Parting is such sweet sorrow, but it was the sweetness rather than the sorrow which predominated at Dame Nellie Melba's farewell concert at the Albert Hall last night. It is true that the two biggest arias which she chose to sing were the same songs of farewell as she sang at Covent Garden a few weeks ago - Mimi's "Addio" from *La Bohème* and Desdemona's "Ave Maria" from *Otello*, which are more poignant and more bitter than the good-bye which she wished to bid us last night.

So not to wring our hearts over-much she eschewed depth of feeling, keeping back the bitterness of those tragic songs she poured out the sweetness of her voice. Perhaps the sentiment most fitting found expression in "Home Sweet Home" which she sang to her own accompaniment after many recalls.

Beside these two arias, which have special associations with her name, Dame Nellie Melba sang two arias of Mozart, "Voi che sapete" and "L'Amero," from *Il Re Pastore*, in which she had the assistance of Mr Lionel Tettis's sensitive viola *obbligato*. Her last contribution were songs to the piano accompaniment of Mr Harold Craxton, in which she included Strauss's "Serenade," but its half playful, half serious mood is too remote from her own style to make it the perfect ending of a last concert.

Mr Tettis played a number of viola solos. Mr John Brownlee, a bass with a voice copious and freely flowing like Dame Melba's own, sang a number of songs, and the orchestra under Sir Henry Wood played one or two light pieces that served to lend a touch of friendly ceremonial to the proceedings.

The audience was large and liable to gusts of excitement. A pause on a dominant seventh, a prolonged note of climax, or an abrupt cadence in the middle of the music, either of voice, viola, or orchestra, was enough to provoke applause. Very naturally too, there were many proud Australians in the audience whose patriotism was a further emotional element. There can be no partings without feelings, and Dame Nellie may well carry away into her own land the warm memory of last night's leave-taking to the concert room.

The King intimated his wish that the Australian Cricket Team should occupy the Royal Box and the Prince of Wales gave his box for the use of disabled Australian soldiers. Dame Nellie Melba has sent all the floral tributes received to the patients of St George's Hospital.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JUNE 26 1997

NEWS

Blair gives ultimatum to IRA

■ Tony Blair yesterday delivered an ultimatum to the IRA by announcing plans to start detailed talks on Northern Ireland's future in September — with or without Sinn Fein.

The Prime Minister wants the discussions over by May 1998, with any agreement being put to the people of Northern Ireland soon after in a referendum. He was effectively telling the IRA to declare a ceasefire by the end of July to have any chance of boarding the "peace train"................ **Pages 1, 22, 23**

Mir space station holed

■ A collision in space punched a hole in the Mir space station, putting at risk the lives of the three cosmonauts on board, who were practising a docking. The unit was quickly sealed off and Russian mission control said that the cosmonauts, who include British-born Michael Foale, were safe .... **Pages 1, 3**

Ffion resigns

Ffion Jenkins, the fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service only days before she was expected to return to her post serving a Labour Cabinet minister.............................. **Page 2**

Game to the rain

The undercover heroes of Wimbledon waited nine hours before springing into action and removing the covers. They had to get them back on again within an hour .... **Pages 5, 48, 52**

Diana's minefield

Diana, Princess of Wales, was said to be "extremely disappointed and frustrated" after deciding to withdraw from a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss landmines .... **Page 6**

Value for money

Jennie Page, the Millennium Dome project's chief executive, defended her £500,000 salary package, saying she was "worth every penny"...................... **Page 7**

BA strike vote

Holiday and business travellers' plans could be disrupted this summer after British Airways cabin crew voted in favour of strike action .... **Page 8**

Back from the grave

The faces of two Egyptians who died almost 2,000 years ago have been reconstructed from their skulls which were excavated by Flinders Petrie in 1888...... **Page 9**

Phone tapping victory

Alison Halford, the former police assistant chief constable, won a European Court ruling over the tapping of her telephone which could herald new privacy laws in Britain .... **Page 14**

Staying inside

A former British soldier offered a conditional discharge from his three-year sentence in Sarajevo has opted to stay behind bars, demanding a pardon or retrial from the Bosnian state ... **Page 15**

Football protest

With Germany bidding to host the 2006 world soccer championships, Hitler's run-down Olympic stadium in Berlin which is meant to be the focus of the contest has provoked a row .... **Page 16**

Hong Kong petition

Eight Hong Kong Chinese police officers with full British passports have petitioned the Queen to let them retire on full pension before the July 1 handover .... **Page 17**

Frontiers claim

Britain claims the Amsterdam treaty text has inserted conditions on frontiers and police demanded by Spain but unapproved by EU leaders .... **Pages 18, 23**

Clinton's past

The Whitewater special prosecutor has expanded his inquiry into any extramarital relationships that President Clinton may have had................................ **Page 19**

Cousteau joins the world of silence

■ "Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau has gone to the world of silence," the Cousteau Foundation announced, in a reference to *The Silent World*, the celebrated oceanographer's Oscar-winning 1955 documentary. President Chirac mourned the death at 87 of "an enchanter in the tradition of ocean explorers whose life seems so much like a legend" .... **Pages 1, 25**

ANDRE CAMARA

Members of the Household Cavalry dressed as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse leaving their barracks yesterday to rehearse in Hyde Park for the Pageant of the Horse, which will be held on Saturday week in Windsor Great Park

BUSINESS

Jobs: The Government is to extend significantly its new jobs programmes by offering all young unemployed people training and employers a new training subsidy of £750 .... **Page 27**

Granada: Mercury Asset Management, the big City investor, indicated it would reject a £771 million bid by Granada for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television .... **Page 27**

Economy: Britain's trade deficit widened unexpectedly in April as booming domestic demand sucked in record imports .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 43.7 points to close at 4640.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 101.6 to 101.3 after a fall from $1.6658 to $1.6640 and from DM2.8717 to DM2.8676.... **Page 30**

SPORT

Rugby union: Bath have the most demanding draw in the pool stage of the Heineken Cup next season. They must face Brive, the holders, and Pontypridd, the Welsh champions .... **Page 49**

Tennis: Monica Seles, the women's No 2 seed, raced to victory in just 46 minutes against Rachel McQuillan in their first-round match at Wimbledon after rain delayed the start of play for six hours .... **Page 48**

Cricket: Keith Piper, the England A and Warwickshire wicketkeeper, has been fined £500 and suspended for failing a drugs test ...... **Page 52**

Rugby union: Ieuan Evans, the Llanelli and Wales wing, will miss the British Isles' international against South Africa on Saturday because of a groin injury .... **Page 52**

ARTS

Holy vacuity! Great visual effects, shame about the characters and plot — all the technical wizardry of *Batman & Robin* cannot disguise the shallowness of the spectacle............................ **Page 36**

Don't cry: *Evita* is out on video with Madonna belting out the Lloyd-Webber score against a thundering soundtrack under Alan Parker's hob-nailed direction........... **Page 37**

American dream: The summer season of the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis plays to packed houses hanging on every word — an increasingly rare pleasure................. **Page 38**

Magic show: A new interactive art exhibition at the Barbican invites visitors to play dangerous games with computers, videos and virtual reality.................................. **Page 39**

FEATURES

Stroke of bad luck: "If you have an acute stroke, do not have it in the UK." Dr Thomas Stuttaford quotes some startling advice....... **Page 20**

Changing places: After her hectic role as wife of the last Governor of Hong Kong, Lavender Patten is looking forward to being her own person again .... **Page 21**

BOOKS

Hong Kong handover: Books reflecting a British past and a Chinese future. And Louis de Bernières on Gabriel Garcia Márquez; Tobias Hill on Bernard MacLaverty................ **Pages 40, 41**

THE PAPERS

After weeks of portraying themselves as taking a highly principled stance in announcing that their Prime Minister and Secretary of State would boycott the swearing in of the provisional legislature, both Briatin and America have now revealed that they will have diplomats present at the ceremony. Had this compromise been reached earlier, yesterday's news might invite less scorn. But their attempts to have their cake and eat it mean London and Washington have forfeited any right to the moral high ground which they like to claim. — *South China Morning Post*

LOTTERY NUMBERS

27, 38, 28, 40, 12, 17. Bonus: 6. The jackpot was £5 million.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
David Sinclair reviews the remarkable new album by Prodigy

■ EDUCATION
The head of the Teacher Training Agency on plans for primary school teachers

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Vanessa Feltz returns with *Watchdog: Value For Money* (BBC1, 7pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on Carol Vorderman.... **Page 50, 51**

OPINION

Amsterdam soup

This treaty is not only a technical mess but a political betrayal of European democracy. It has hampered the task of enlargement which ought to be Europe's cardinal objective..................... **Page 23**

The great debate

If Parliament wants to be more newsworthy, it will have to fight hard, particularly while there is unlikely to be the drama of the Government losing .... **Page 23**

Omnibus time

With imagination and some new technology, these sturdy old workhorses ought to be made clean, safe, swift and frequent: truly an omnibus for all .... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

CHARLES LYSAGHT

It looks inevitable that John Bruton will be replaced as Taoiseach. Britain will thereby lose a Prime Minister uniquely well disposed towards her and uniquely conciliatory towards the Unionists......... **Page 22**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

New Labour will face some shocks in its period of office; a Wall Street shock is likely to be one of them..................................... **Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Can Clare Short ignore the outcry from British companies if she changes track on overseas aid? She should do just that .... **Page 22**

PETER RIDDELL

William Hague has a problem. The majority of the public does not know what to make of him **Page 2**

JOHN BRYANT

The thump of scorching aces at Wimbledon is one of the traditional sounds of summer. So, increasingly, is the chorus of complaints that the high-speed servers are ripping tennis apart.................... **Page 50**

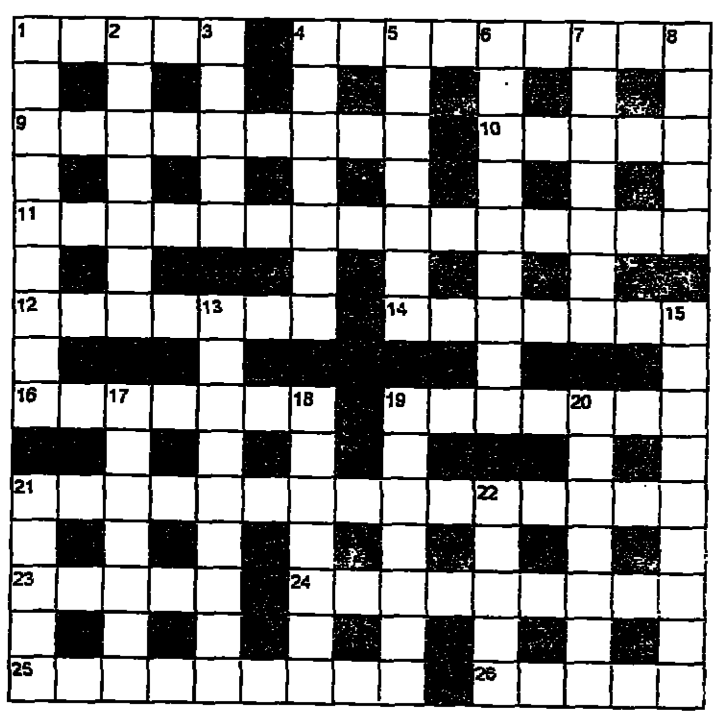
OBITUARIES

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, underwater explorer and film-maker; **René Taylor**, Hispanicist............ **Page 25**

LETTERS

The future of the RAF; the Conservative Party; the Forth Bridge; police discipline .... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,516



ACROSS

1 Quiet game of cards (5).
4 Bar allowed to bring in second press agent (9).
9 Informed, we think, on development (2,3,4).
10 Enemy tug spoken of still (5).
11 Highly significant demolition of two hearts — it's no good (5-10).
12 This beau could turn out to be married (7).
14 Person someone was willing to help? Not him (7).
16 Allowing team-leader to be considered (7).
19 Vitamin Nye called for? (7).
21 For two pins, provide cover and take control (4,3,8).
23 Let the French back down (5).
24 Dr. Ellis — he takes a turn around deck (9).
25 Cat's-paw has to act cautiously (9).
26 *Parrot that's beginning to make a comeback in mountainous region* (5).

DOWN

1 European nibbled round a little fish (9).
2 Cockney's suggestion to lady and gentleman is only provisional (7).
3 Committee that camouflages its effectiveness (5).
4 Aggressive type offering drink to monarch (7).
5 Trap set up with long entrance (7).
6 Mischievous child on playground is extremely rude and rough (9).
7 Greatly admire Matilda's confession about son (7).
8 Whip up drama abroad in great surroundings (5).
13 Fix one sort of match at once (5,4).
15 He organised household unusually — she cleans (9).
17 They give infallible advice when boats don't start (7).
18 In the ring, returned to it (7).
19 Circus performer with drum about to turn up (7).
20 With more grass about, Edith runs (7).
21 Curlew starts off with hardly any upper plumage (5).
22 In the dark, find somewhere to sleep in Paris (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,515

C	O	B	W	E	B	■	E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y
H	■	U	■	A	■	F	■	R	■	U	■	N	■	P
I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O	■	B	O	X	E	R
E	■	K	■	L	■	N	■	D	■	L	■	I	■	E
F	O	R	G	E	■	G	A	U	D	I	N	E	S	S
W	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	C	■	S	■	T	■	■
H	O	M	E	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	■	Y	A	P
I	■	■	■	C	■	P	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	O
P	E	W	■	H	A	R	B	O	U	R	D	U	E	S
■	■	A	■	O	■	I	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	S
P	E	R	S	O	N	N	E	L	■	C	R	A	T	E
O	■	F	■	N	■	T	■	I	■	R	■	I	■	S
U	S	A	G	E	■	I	N	N	U	E	N	D	O	S
N	■	R	■	R	■	N	■	E	■	D	■	E	■	E
D	R	E	S	S	A	G	E	■	L	O	A	D	E	D

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises	Sun sets
4.43 am	9.22 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
11.49 am	12.13 am

Last quarter tomorrow

London 9.22 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.32 pm to 4.55 am
Edinburgh 10.03 pm to 4.29 am
Manchester 9.42 pm to 4.42 am
Penzance 9.35 pm to 5.14 am

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FORECAST

☐ **Outlook:** dull, wet and cool again over all eastern and central parts of England and Wales, some rain heavy with thunder. Chill north wind, bright spells in parts of Kent and East Anglia. Rest of UK should have bright spells and showers, fresh north wind.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England, NE England:** cloudy and cool with rain, heavy at times. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** variable cloud, sunny spells, showers. Cool Max 17C (63F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:** cloudy, cool with showers and bright intervals. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunny spells and scattered showers. Cool. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Shetland:** cool with sunny spells and isolated showers. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** further rain in the south and east. Sunny spells in west, but remaining showery. A little warmer everywhere on Saturday.

☐ **Pollen:** Counts will be low in most areas but will rise to moderate in dry spells in west. (Supplied by Pollen Research Unit)

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun, t=thunder

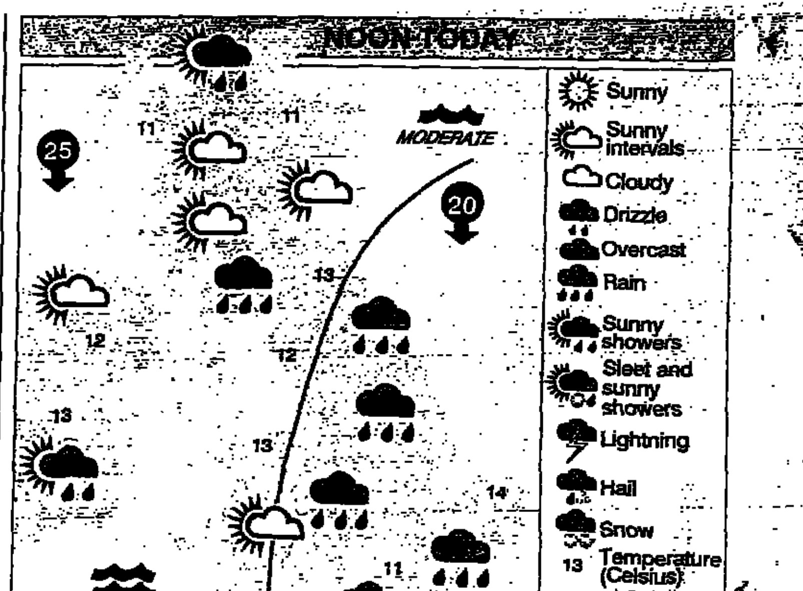
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.5	0.01	11	52	c
Anglesey	0.3	0.83	15	59	r
Aspatria	4.3	0.15	14	57	r
Aviemore	0.4	0.01	12	54	r
Belfast	0.4	0.59	16	61	d
Birmingham	0.3	0.37	14	57	r
Bognor R	0.3	0.46	16	61	r
Bournem'th	2.1	0.47	18	64	r
Bristol	5.5	0.46	19	66	r
Buxton	-	0.33	12	54	r
Cardiff	4.9	0.65	18	64	b
Clacton	2.1	0.11	13	55	r
Cleethorpes		0.20	14	57	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.58	15	59	r
Cromer	-	0.11	15	59	r
Dunbar	0.2	0.01	14	57	sh
Eastbourne	-	0.77	14	57	r
Edinburgh	1.2	0.02	14	57	sh
Exmouth	1.1	0.36	17	63	sh
Fishguard	0.4	0.42	15	59	d
Folkestone	1.1	0.17	16	61	r
Glasgow	2.6	0.09	15	59	r
Guernsey	0.5	0.53	17	63	sh
Hastings	1.1	0.39	13	55	r
Hayling I	1.3	2.41	17	63	r
Herne Bay	0.2	0.22	14	57	r
Hove	0.1	0.03	15	59	r
Isle of Man	-	0.69	14	57	r
Jersey	2.6	0.32	17	63	r
Kinloss	2.9	0.03	11	52	r
Leeds	2.1	0.22	13	55	r
Lerwick	0.5	0.14	10	50	sh
Littlehmptn	0.3	0.52	16	61	r
London	-	0.22	15	59	r
Lowestoft	-	0.22	15	59	r
Manchester	1.5	0.19	15	59	r
Margate	1.1	0.22	14	57	r
Minehead	3.5	0.28	17	63	b
Morecambe	2.1	0.11	15	59	r
Newquay	2.1	0.47	16	61	r
Norwich	0.7	0.13	15	59	r
Penzance	X	0.73	18	64	sh
Poole	1.4	0.10	18	64	c
Ross-o-wye	0.7	0.31	18	64	sh
Salcombe	4.8	0.62	18	64	b
Saunton Snd	2.5	0.37	17	63	du
Shanklin	1.4	0.62	15	59	r
Skegness	-	0.11	14	57	r
Southend	-	0.21	17	63	r
Southport	0.8	0.20	14	57	r
Stornoway	7.1	-	12	54	s
Swanage	1.4	0.54	17	63	sh
Teignmouth	1.5	0.35	19	66	sh
Tenby	0.9	0.77	17	63	r
Tiree	0.5	0.01	15	59	c
Torquay	1.9	0.41	19	66	b
Tynemouth	-	0.16	12	54	r
Ventnor	0.8	0.34	15	59	r
West-s-mare	4.3	0.70	19	66	b
Weymouth	1.9	0.38	16	61	s

ABROAD

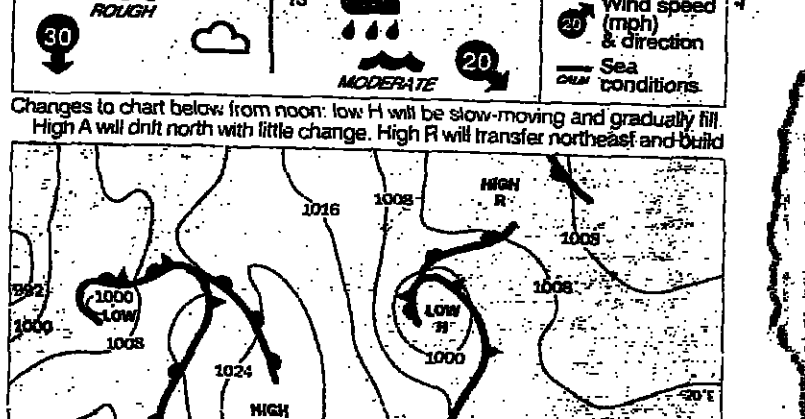
	C	F	
Ajaccio	23	73	f
Akrotiri	29	84	s
Alex'dria	29	84	s
Algiers	28	82	s
Amst'dm	14	57	s
Athens	X		
B Aires	17	63	s
Bahrain	X		
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	24	75	f
Beirut	28	82	f
Belgrade	23	73	f
Berlin	16	61	r
Bermuda	26	79	f
Biarritz	19	66	s
Bordx	20	68	c
Brussels	13	55	r
Budapst	22	72	f
Cairo	36	97	s
Cape Tn	13	55	r
Ch'church	7	45	X
Chicago	32	90	s
Cologne	16	61	c
Corfu	X		
C'phagn	17	63	f
Dublin	14	57	c
Dubrovnik	25	77	s
Faro	23	73	s
Florence	X		
Frankfurt	16	61	f
Funchal	22	72	c
Geneva	15	59	c
Gibraltar	20	68	c
Helsinki	18	64	f
Hong K	27	81	f
Innsbrck	17	63	c
Istanbul	33	91	s
Jeddah	37	99	s
Jo'burg	17	63	s
L Angels	22	72	s
L Palmas	24	75	s
Le Touquet	15	59	f
Lisbon	25	77	s
Locarno	21	70	f
Luxembg	16	61	f
Luxor	41	106	s
Madrid	26	79	s
Majorca	27	81	f
Malaga	25	77	s
Malta	25	77	s
Melb'rne	10	50	d
Mexico C	18	64	r
Miami	31	88	s
Milan	25	77	f
Montreal	23	73	s
Moscow	25	77	c
Munich	15	59	f
N Delhi	33	91	f
N York	27	81	s
Nairobi	23	73	c
Naples	25	77	f
Nice	22	72	s
Oslo	18	64	c
Paris	15	59	c
Peking	34	93	s
Perth	20	68	c
Prague	15	59	c
Reykjavik	11	52	d
Rhodes	X		
Rio de J	31	88	s
Riyadh	42	108	s
Rome	24	75	f
S F'rsco	19	66	s
S Paulo	26	79	s
Salzburg	14	57	c
Santiago	13	55	f
Seoul	31	88	f
Sing'por	34	93	f
St'kholm	20	68	f
Strasb'rg	15	59	f
Sydney	16	61	s
Tangier	26	79	f
Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Tenerife	25	77	c
Tokyo	29	84	s
Toronto	27	81	s
Tunis	28	82	s
Valencia	25	77	f
Vanc'ver	16	61	c
Venice	X		
Vienna	20	68	f
Warsaw	16	61	f
Wash'ton	34	93	s
Wel'ngton	9	48	c
Zurich	15	59	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low H will be slow-moving and gradually fill. High A will drift north with little change. High R will transfer northeast and build



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06.38	7.1	18.52	6.9
Aberdeen	06.02	4.1	18.52	3.9
Avonmouth	-	-	12.07	12.3
Belfast	03.41	3.5	16.24	3.2
Cardiff	11.53	11.4	-	-
Devonport	10.36	5.0	22.54	5.2
Dover	03.51	6.3	16.13	6.4
Dublin (N Wall)	04.15	4.1	17.03	3.8
Falmouth	10.07	4.9	22.25	5.0
Greenock	05.09	3.6	17.45	3.3
Harwich	04.33	4.0	16.47	3.9
Holyhead	02.58	5.5	15.35	5.1
Hull (Albert D)	10.50	6.4	23.40	6.0
Ilfracombe	10.55	8.5	23.23	8.6
King's Lynn	11.09	6.4	-	-
Leith	07.24	5.3	20.02	5.2
Liverpool	03.52	9.2	16.22	8.7
Lowestoft	02.20	2.3	14.11	2.5
Margate	04.50	4.6	17.00	4.6
Milford Haven	11.11	6.3	23.38	6.5
Newquay	10.07	6.4	22.38	6.5
Oban	10.28	3.3	23.13	3.5
Penzance	09.36	5.0	22.03	5.2
Portland	11.55	1.8	-	-
Portsmouth	03.57	4.5	16.50	4.5
Shoreham	03.53	5.9	16.28	6.0
Southampton	03.23	4.4	15.58	4.4
Swansea	11.16	8.8	23.42	8.9
Tees	08.33	5.2	21.20	5.0
Walton-on-N	04.29	4.2	16.43	4.1

All times BST. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay 19C (66F); lowest day max: Aboyne, Aberdeenshire 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Lough Fea, Co Tyrone 1.34in; highest sunshine: Stornoway 7.10hr

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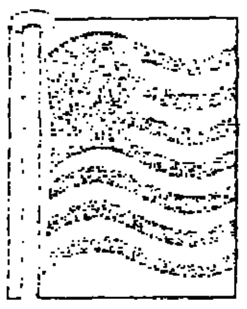
THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS
This year's model distracts US from challenge ahead
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TRAVEL
Why not everybody loves the new superliners
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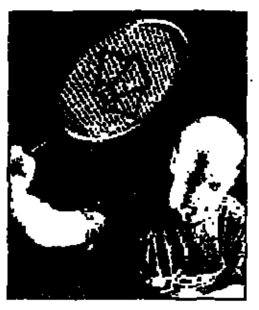

SPORT
Why the speed trap is bad for racket sports
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
THURSDAY JUNE 26 1997

Boots directors awarded £600,000 in bonus scheme

By Carl Mortished

DIRECTORS of Boots gained almost £600,000 from a short-term bonus scheme that rewards directors even if they fail to meet budgeted profit forecasts. The scheme paid Lord Blyth, Boots's chief executive, a bonus of £181,000 last year, increasing his pay package 18 per cent, from £595,000 to £701,000, in the year to March 31.

In addition, Lord Blyth was awarded a bonus of £157,000 under the company's long-term bonus plan and he exercised options over shares to realise a gain of £396,000. His total financial gain over the year, including salary, bonuses and share options, was £1.25 million.

According to The Boots Company's annual report, the short-term bonus scheme rewards executive directors "by reference to challenging but achievable forecasts". The performance criterion last year was profit after tax and the accounts indicate that a bonus of 10 per cent of salary is payable on achieving just 95 per cent of the profit after tax budget; 25 per cent is payable on achieving the budget and 35 per cent is awarded for performance 10 per cent ahead of budget.

Last year, the executive directors were awarded the maximum bonus of 35 per cent of salary when the company raised its post-tax profit, excluding exceptional items, by 9.4 per cent to £361 million. Boots refused to reveal what its profit forecast was in the last financial year but, assuming the company merely passed the 10 per cent over budget hurdle, Boots was forecasting post-tax profits up by 8.5 per cent. A spokesman for Boots said the bonus scheme was intended to reward executives if they get within the range of the profit target.

Boots's internal forecasts were probably more conservative than City analysts' who found their earnings per share predictions matched or marginally surpassed by the level of actual earnings announced by Boots last month.

The Boots short-term bonus scheme is unlikely to satisfy the corporate governance lobby which expects bonuses to be awarded on the basis of demanding targets.

Anne Simpson of Pirc, the pension fund consultancy, said that bonuses should be awarded for outperformance. She said: "You get your salary for doing your job moderately well, which includes hitting your budget. Directors will be asking for a bonus for getting out of bed next." Ms Simpson said the question was whether the budget was a target that stretched the executives. "There are as many problems with remuneration today as there were two years ago."

Commentary, page 29

Brown to broaden scope of 'welfare to work'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is to extend significantly its new jobs programmes by offering all young unemployed people training and employers a new training subsidy of £750.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will announce details of the extended New Deal jobs programme in his first Budget next week. But the net effect of the move could be to offer places to young people on the jobs scheme for nine months or more, instead of the six months originally envisaged.

In talks with business leaders at No 11 Downing Street yesterday, the Chancellor confirmed that the centrepiece of next week's Budget will be the Government's New Deal welfare-to-work programme for the young and long-term unemployed. Under the terms of the programme, employers taking on an unemployed young person will be paid a weekly subsidy of £60 a head for six months, and £75 for long-term unemployed adults.

But the Budget will also make clear that the New Deal programme for the young unemployed will also contain two new elements — a "gateway" scheme to train young people for the jobs they will do with employers taking part in the overall programme, and a new additional £750 a head subsidy to employers to meet training costs.

Ministers believe that the total costs will be contained in the £3 billion which David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced yesterday has been earmarked for the New Deal programmes from the money to be raised from the windfall tax on privatised utilities.

Under the planned gateway programme, every unemployed youngster taking up a place on the New Deal jobs scheme will first be assessed and, if necessary, trained to prepare them.

The maximum length of the gateway programme is understood to be three months. Taken with the six months of the New Deal scheme itself, it will take youngsters' time on the overall programme to nine months. Further moves could even take the total time on the programme up to a full year. The Government is to require employers to offer either on-the-job training or day-release working towards an accredited qualification.

Both moves are likely to increase sharply the take-up by companies of the scheme, which will start with pilot programmes in January in 15 areas around the country, and will then begin in earnest in April next year.

Mr Brown said it was now time to "break the vicious downward cycle" of unskilled youngsters spending a lifetime out of work. He emphasised that there would be no option available for young people "staying at home, doing nothing". Britain needed to "rebuild the welfare state around the work ethic".

Business largely gave a warm welcome to the proposals. John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, said his company would take on young people under the scheme and said there was a warm reaction from business leaders towards it. David Sainsbury, chairman of J Sainsbury, the retail group, endorsed Mr Brown's plans, while John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, applauded the Government for listening to business.

TONY WHITE

Sir Ian Prosser, left, and Sir Richard Greenbury leave yesterday's meeting at No 11

Economists surprised as trade gap widens

By Alasdair Murray

BRITAIN'S trade deficit widened unexpectedly in April as booming domestic demand sucked in a record level of imports.

But exports also grew to record levels suggesting that the the manufacturing sector is learning how to deal with the strong pound.

The global trade gap increased to £961 million in April compared with £671 million the previous month. The non-EU deficit for May also widened to £563 million from £425 million in April.

Total imports rose 9.2 per cent to £15.6 billion while exports grew 7.2 per cent to £14.7 billion.

Economists were divided on whether the deficit will widen in the coming months. David Bloom, UK economist at James Capel, said the pound was not having the expected "depressing influence" on exports because of a pick-up in world trade. He said that if this trend continued "it could destroy the main pillar of the growth slowdown mechanism, faltering export growth".

But Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, gave warning that if imports continue to grow and the pound finally begins to hit exports the deficit could widen to an extent that worries the market.

Separate data yesterday showed the EU's harmonised measure for UK inflation unchanged at 1.6 per cent.

Standard Life loses second top executive

By Caroline Merrell

STANDARD LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, has been hit by the departure of a second high-ranking executive in less than a week.

Benny Higgins, general manager of sales, considered a likely successor to take over from Scott Bell, 56, group managing director, has resigned from the mutual organisation, for " personal reasons". He declined to comment on his resignation, but said that he had another job to which to go, the details of which would be announced in a few week's time.

Mr Higgins became head of the company's sales division in November last year. He was previously assistant general manager of the division, and has been at the company for 14 years.

Earlier this week, John Thomson, Standard Life's chief investment manager, resigned after a boardroom disagreement over how the company ran its operations. Like Mr Higgins, Mr Thomson had been in his job for less than a year. Mr Higgins said that their departures were unconnected.

Standard Life claims that it is committed to remaining a mutual organisation. However, some observers believe that after the successful flotation of Norwich Union, pressure could increase for the company to follow it down the path to conversion.

Memo to EDS staff: is your workmate really necessary?

By Jason Nissé

EDS, the American technology consultancy with government contracts worth more than £250 million a year, has asked its staff to suggest jobs that can be "eliminated" as part of a purge to cut its workforce in Europe by 2,000.

In a memo to all 22,000 of EDS's European employees — 10,000 of whom are in the UK — John Bateman, chairman of the Europe, Middle East and Asia region of EDS, says that the group is cutting 7,000 to 9,000 jobs worldwide and that about 2,000 of those will be in the European region.

The memo, leaked to the trade magazine *Computer Weekly*, continues: "We need to hear from you. If you know of a position which can be eliminated, a contractor who can be replaced by an EDS employee or an open job that need not be filled, speak up. *You* need to be involved in slimming the organisation, because it's your own job you're preserving."

Mark Fox, EDS's European corporate communications manager, denied that the memo asked staff to point out those who were not working hard enough so that they could be removed. He said that the group had 2,800 vacancies and 1,500 outside contractors working for it.

"What Mr Bateman is asking is if you see a position that does not need to be done, point this out," said Mr Fox. "I have four open positions in my department. Do I need to fill these posts?"

EDS's staff in the UK has trebled in the past five years, largely through its success in winning outsourcing contracts, notably for the Government. It is working on projects for the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security and has just been chosen to lead a £53 million project to upgrade air-traffic control over the North Atlantic.

Last year the Commons Public Accounts Committee raised concern about the quantity of contracts awarded to EDS. More than half of all information-technology business outsourced by government departments is now placed with EDS.

In spite of the success in the UK, EDS's shares have performed poorly on Wall Street, falling from $63 last year to a low of $32.50. Its recent first-quarter figures showed a fall in earnings of 11 per cent.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4640.0	(+43.7
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2199.97	(+16.37)
Nikkei	20679.27	(+337.34)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7794.03	(+35.97)*
S&P Composite	900.32	(+3.98)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	98 31/32*	(98[illegible])
Yield	6.71%*	(6.69%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 23/32%	(6 3/4%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	113 15/16	(113 17/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6625*	(1.6695)
London:		
$	1.6640	(1.6660)
DM	2.8678	(2.8721)
FFr	9.6795	(9.6971)
SFr	2.3920	(2.3947)
Yen	189.59	(191.34)
£ Index	101.3	(101.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7255*	(1.7245)
FFr	5.8230*	(5.8185)
SFr	1.4275*	(1.4385)
Yen	114.04*	(114.92)
$ Index	102.4	(102.6)

Tokyo close Yen 113.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	$17.95	($18.05)

GOLD

London close	$338.55	($338.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Wessex plea

Wessex Water made a last-minute plea that the windfall tax should not penalise companies that are good performers. Nick Hood, chairman, said calculations should be based on the value of companies immediately after privatisation. **Page 28**

Ionica

Ionica, the telephony company that operates in the East of England and the Midlands, said it intends to seek foreign partners in an effort to develop a significant overseas business.
Page 32, Tempus 30

MAM unlikely to back Granada's YTTV offer

By Eric Reguly

MERCURY Asset Management, which backed Granada's bids for both LWT and Forte, yesterday indicated that it would reject the hotel and television group's £771 million agreed offer for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, which was formally tabled yesterday.

However, it appeared that most institutional shareholders will accept the offer, which is pitched at £11.75 a share. MAM is believed to have bought much of its 5 per cent stake in YTTV at £12 a share.

Ward Thomas, YTTV's chairman, urged MAM to accept the bid. He said: "I think they will vote against it. They may be foolish to hold out because I would have thought a counter bid unlikely."

United News & Media, the television and newspaper group that owns 14 per cent of YTTV, is thought to be the only possible counter bidder. Mr Thomas raised hopes that Granada would pay more than the current offer when he suggested this year that YTTV was worth £17 a share. He has since admitted that his comment was designed to goad Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman.

Mr Robinson called Granada's offer "extremely fair", given the state of the ITV market in general and YTTV in particular. Independent studies have predicted that increased competition will reduce ITV's share of total TV advertising revenue from 69 per cent last year to 55 per cent in 2003. YTTV, in a trading statement, said it expected a disappointing second quarter, with weak advertising revenue and failure to increase market share.

Granada expects to save as much as £20 million a year by merging Granada TV and YTTV. YTTV shares closed at £11.57½p, up 2½p.

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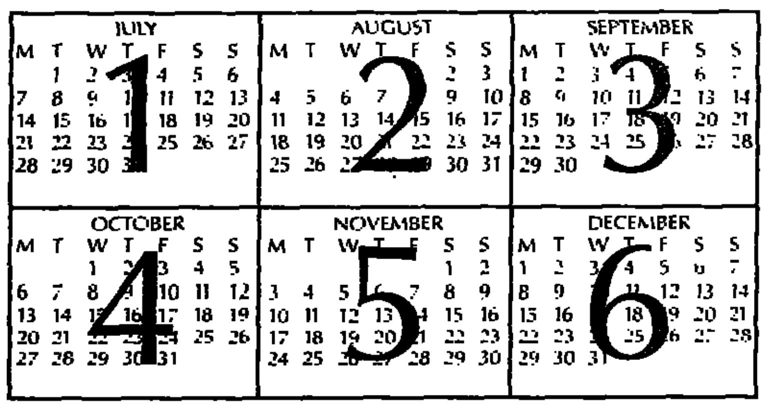

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£25,000+	6.70%	6.50%	5.33%	5.20%

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Limit fears decline in future trading

By Adam Jones

LIMIT, the largest Lloyd's of London investment trust, yesterday gave a warning to investors that trading might deteriorate steadily over the next four years.

However, the receipt of the first underwriting profits contributed towards a quadrupling of the total dividend.

So far investors in Limit, which is also the largest underwriting Lloyd's member, have received dividends only on the investment income earned by funds deposited at the insurance market.

The underwriting profits relate to 1994 performance because of the market's traditional three-year accounting delay. Limit made a profit before tax of £70.3 million, compared with £13 million previously.

Earnings from the managing agencies of Bankside and Janson Green contributed £12.1 million, with another £16.4 million coming from investment income.

The majority shareholdings in Bankside and Janson Green were acquired during the year. Limit also increased its minority investments in other Lloyd's of London vehicles, both dedicated and integrated, by £6.9 million.

The fund recorded a maiden underwriting profit of £51.5 million, representing a 10.2 per cent return on underwriting capacity and a larger figure than was expected in some quarters.

The underwriting result, in a near-record year for Lloyd's profits, is after a contribution to the market's special fund, but before an £8.5 million provision set aside against ongoing losses on weak syndicates.

Jonathan Agnew, chairman and a shortlisted candidate for the chairmanship of Lloyd's, said that the comparable underwriting return was expected to be more than 8 per cent in 1995, on allocated capacity of £580 million.

He added: "The increasingly competitive conditions for the 1996 underwriting account will result in a materially lower return on the direct allocated capacity of £610.3 million."

Limit is hopeful of a "small positive return" on its £614.8 million capacity in 1997, likely to be augmented by the partial return of special fund contributions for 1994 and 1995.

Mr Agnew added: "The board has no reason to believe that conditions will improve in 1998, and they may continue to deteriorate."

Limit's administrative expenses include directors' bonuses that may be worth up to £550,000 in total, relating to two years' performance.

The year's profits were further boosted by a £1.7 million exchange rate gain after hedging dollar exposure.

On September 19, a special dividend of 6p is due to be paid, in addition to a final dividend of 4.25p, making a total of 12p (3.4p) for the year.

A special dividend is also expected next year, but subsequent dividends, coming in a trough in the global insurance market, will aim to beat a smaller 6p benchmark.

The shares increased 2.5p to 134.5p.

League reaffirms deal with BSkyB

By Jason Nissé

THE FA Premier League yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to see through the £670 million contract with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*. The deal, which covers the live transmission of top-flight football on the satellite TV service, was signed a year ago and lasts until the end of the 2000/2001 season.

Peter Leaver, QC, chief executive of the league, rejected suggestions that he was pressing to end the contract so that matches could be shown on a pay-per-view basis from the beginning of the 1999/2000 season.

"The FA Premier League and BSkyB have had a very good relationship since the FA Premier League was set up and, despite the speculation, there is no weakening of the link," Mr Leaver said.

"The simple position is that our new four-year deal with BSkyB is a binding agreement which comes into place at the start of the 1997/98 season. There is no break clause and no question of terminating that agreement before 2001, nor is there any meeting planned to discuss such possibilities."

Peter Wood is leaving Royal Bank of Scotland to develop direct insurance in the US

Direct Line pioneer tries sequel overseas

By Robert Miller

PETER WOOD, the millionaire founder of Direct Line, the telephone insurer, is to leave Royal Bank of Scotland, hoping to repeat his UK success in the United States and Spain.

Mr Wood, who is estimated to have earned £50 million in bonuses from Direct Line, an RBS subsidiary, is to launch Direct Response Corporation in the US in October.

In 1994 the Direct Line founder was paid £21.4 million as the final instalment of a £42 million package before he reverted to an annual salary of £350,000, uprated each year in line with inflation. Almost every UK insurer has tried to copy Direct Line's success and low-cost base.

Mr Wood, who will remain chairman of Privilege, the non-standard UK motor and home insurer, which he founded jointly with RBS, remains the second-largest private shareholder in RBS, with a stake valued at about £17 million.

Mr Wood, an ardent supporter of the Chelsea football club, said of his departure from RBS: "I'm an entrepreneur and I'm looking forward to starting my fourth insurance company. I plan to keep a significant stake in RBS, but will sell some shares for pension and trust reasons."

George Mathewson, the chief executive of RBS, said: "Peter and I both agreed that this was a perfectly natural point to leave. Our relationship has been an outstanding success and we have provided a great environment for an entrepreneur-driven person for 13 years."

Comment, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Captain Pugwash licensing deal

JOHN RYAN, the creator of Captain Pugwash, is finally to cash in on the fame of his cartoon pirate after striking a £1.5 million licensing deal with The Britt Allcroft Company, owner of Thomas the Tank Engine. Mr Ryan, 76, who has been writing adventures for the series since 1956, has handed the rights to Britt Allcroft which has, in return, promised to relaunch the series through 26 new episodes. After Britt Allcroft has recovered its costs, Mr Ryan will receive a share in all profits made on the series and on the stream of merchandising that is set to follow. The arrangement is expected to make him a millionaire before his 85th birthday.

Mr Ryan is acting in concert with John Cary, a friend of the family, who will produce the computer-based series that will contain a more diverse ethnic mix of characters and will be set in the Caribbean.

City Diary, page 31

Orange sues for fraud

ORANGE, the mobile phone group, yesterday confirmed that it is taking civil action against a former employee who is suspected of defrauding the company. The employee, who was based in Bristol, was sacked "for gross misconduct", according to Orange. The company is investigating irregularities in the marketing department's printing operation, which produces advertising and promotional material. A spokesman for Orange said the suspected fraud was not as large as the "multimillion pound" figure reported in the trade press.

Chief of bank code body

A FORMER director of the Bank of England is to head the independent review body to ensure that banks and building societies follow the new Banking Code, which comes into effect on July 1. The British Bankers' Association said yesterday that Rodney Galpin, former executive director of the Bank and chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, would be chairman of the review panel, which will include representatives from the Consumers Association and the National Consumer Council.

Retail price plea

REMOVING recommended retail prices on electrical goods is as likely to mean price rises as cuts, according to a report commissioned by the British Radio & Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association (Brema). The report by Business Strategies, the consultancy, says there is no evidence that removing RRPs would benefit the consumer. The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to decide soon whether to accept recommendations from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that RRPs be abolished. Brema wants them to remain.

Y J Lovell reduces loss

Y J LOVELL, the construction company, returned its core businesses to profitability in the six months to March 30, reducing group losses to £1.5 million (£7.8 million loss). A £50 million order from Railtrack lifted its order book to £118 million, up from £66.5 million previously, most gained as partnership arrangements rather than competitively tendered work. Losses eased to 5.4p (21p loss) a share, and there is no dividend. The shares closed ¾p up at 12¼p.

Costs fail to halt TGI

TGI, the loudspeaker company behind the Tannoy and Martin Audio brands, lifted profits 9 per cent rise in the year to March 31 in spite of spending heavily on research and development. Pre-tax profit rose to £2.4 million, from £2.2 million, on turnover up to £51.5 million, from £44 million. R&D spending was £1.4 million as abour 50 new products were launched. TGI is planning 20 to 30 new products in the current year. Earnings per share were 9.3p (8.8p). A final dividend of 2.35p (2.2p), due on August 22, makes 3.5p (3.2p).

United News buoyant

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, the television, newspaper and exhibitions group, said trading in the first half of the year had been in line with expectations "with strong performance across the group". The company said advertising revenues at its Anglia and Meridian ITV franchises had been "buoyant", but that ITV's advertising share had been affected by the April launch of Channel 5. United has a 29 per cent stake in Channel 5. The continued strength of sterling had only a "modest" effect on trading in the first half, United said.

Wescol buys Glosford

WESCOL, the structural steel company, is buying Glosford Holdings for £6.38 million in cash and shares. Glosford, a private company based in Worcester, operates in similar markets and the two companies have collaborated on projects. Wescol has been performing strongly at home and abroad and it believes that the acquisition will provide the larger and more flexible production capacity essential for winning big contracts. Kenneth Jones, who founded Glosford in 1980 and is its managing director, will join Wescol's board.

ACT Budget plea

THE National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) has appealed to Tony Blair not to allow the Chancellor to reduce or abolish the tax credit on advance corporation tax (ACT) in his Budget next week. Ann Robinson, its director-general, said such a move "would certainly impact on many companies but would have more serious long-term effects on the incomes of millions of individuals". The NAPF has argued the pension fund exemption from ACT is clawed back by the Treasury when pensioners begin to draw a monthly income.

Irish growth fuels skill-shortage fear

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

THE high level of job creation in the Irish Republic could soon result in a skills shortage, according to the chief executive of the Industrial Development Agency.

Speaking yesterday at the launch of the IDA's annual report, Kieran McGowan gave warning that a radical, co-ordinated approach by government agencies, training authorities and industry is needed to ensure that the republic continues to be an attractive location for foreign investment.

Mr McGowan also advised the republic's new government, which is expected to take office today, that funding should be released immediately for several new training initiatives designed to meet the growing demand for workers with technical and language skills.

The IDA last year attracted 200 foreign investment projects, which together created more than 1,000 jobs a month. At the end of 1996, more than 1,047 IDA-assisted companies were providing 97,000 jobs in the Republic. Mr McGowan said that the average cost per job to the IDA was Ir£11,920 last year, its lowest ever.

Mr McGowan said that he expected the electronics, software, teleservice and back-office sectors to be the main new job providers this year.

Lottery regulator eyes new sanctions

By Jon Ashworth

PETER DAVIS, the National Lottery regulator, is likely to call for the power to impose fines on Camelot, when he issues his annual report today.

Mr Davis, who has sought to distance himself from the lottery operator, amid suggestions that he has not been tough enough, is eager to have a wider range of sanctions at his disposal. This would include the ability to impose fines for repeated licence breaches.

At present, Mr Davis can either issue verbal warnings or apply to the High Court for an injunction.

During the past 12 months, Camelot has been criticised for falling behind with the installation of Instants terminals — a matter now rectified — and been accused over under-age ticket sales.

Mr Davis is unlikely to comment in his report on the recent "fat cat" pay furore, which led to a damaging stand-off between Camelot and the Government. What Camelot does with its money is not within his remit. Camelot has applied to run a television game show for Instants winners, offering prizes of up to £100,000, but Mr Davis has yet to make a decision.

Mr Davis has been criticised by MPs for accepting hospitality from GTech, part of the Camelot consortium. This was long after he had awarded Camelot its licence.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.31	2.14
Austria Sch	21.07	19.52
Belgium Fr	62.04	57.40
Canada $	2.435	2.259
Cyprus Cyp£	0.888	0.821
Denmark Kr	11.45	10.62
Finland Mkk	9.08	8.38
France Fr	10.0	9.37
Germany Dm	3.01	2.78
Greece Dr	477	440
Hong Kong $	13.61	12.48
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.06
Israel Shk	6.19	5.54
Italy Lira	2960	2739
Japan Yen	203.60	187.10
Malta	0.671	0.615
Netherlds Gld	3.402	3.125
New Zealand $	2.58	2.351
Norway Kr	12.61	11.73
Portugal Esc	300.50	280.00
S Africa Rd	8.18	7.26
Spain Pta	252.50	235.00
Sweden Kr	13.52	12.49
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.32
Turkey Lira	253206	234634
USA $	1.761	1.627

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Financial self-regulation 'a fiction'

Alistair Darling has given notice of substantial reform

By Marianne Curphey

THE current system of self-regulation among financial services companies is "a cumbersome and expensive fiction" that requires urgent reform, Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has told insurers.

Regulators needed to work together ahead of new government legislation so that a new enlarged version of the Securities and Investments Board can be achieved smoothly.

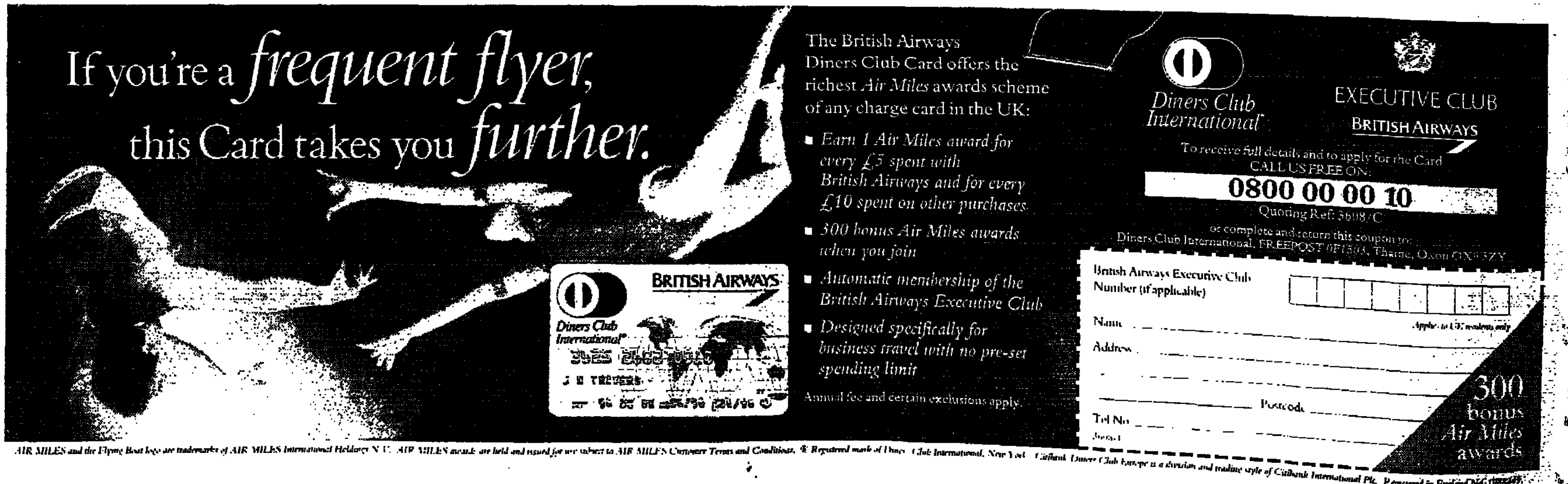
Melding together the 1,500 members of staff who work at the different regulatory bodies will be the first job of Howard Davies, who succeeds Sir Andrew Large as chairman of the SIB next month. Mr Darling told an audience of life insurers in London yesterday that, although the distinctions between banks, securities firms and insurance companies were becoming blurred, they were regulated by a variety of different supervisors.

This, he added, was costly and needed to change. "We need a regulatory system to fit modern markets and a regulator with sufficient clout, reputation and stature to deal with its international counterparts."

Mr Darling said two Bills would be introduced shortly to reform financial services regulation. The first, the Bank of England Bill, is expected to achieve Royal Assent at the beginning of next year and will shift banking supervision to the new super-SIB.

The second Bill, to reform financial services regulation, will be published in draft form for consultation next summer and could become law in late 1999 or early 2000.

Mr Darling said regulation needed to be "complementary to the needs of the financial services industry, and not a hindrance". The Treasury has acknowleged that the workload for the new project will be considerable, and Sir Andrew has been asked to draw up a plan showing how the integration will be tackled.



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JUNE 26 199

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

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J Lovell reduces loss

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Vestol buys Glosford

ACT Budget plea

The smirk behind Super-SIB

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

The new team at the Treasury has taken to the chance of regulating the finance industry with all the vigour that a Master of Foxhounds would bring to whipping-in hunt saboteurs. Their enthusiasm for the task has the smirk of self-righteousness. On Monday, Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, publicly carpeted Sedgwick and Legal & General for falling short on the *mea culpa* quotient and yesterday Chief Secretary Alistair Darling had his say.

It was management that was to blame for the industry's failures, he intoned, finding it impossible to resist reference to personal pensions mis-selling. "A good management doesn't need to be told how to run a profitable and ethical company," he said, before going on to offer a few helpful tips.

But the Government may soon be grateful for a few management tips itself. For while Mr Darling's main purpose in his speech yesterday was to talk about the Super-SIB that is to be established to regulate the financial services industry, he was light on the detail of how this giant is to be managed.

Even those practitioners who accept the need for a new regulatory framework, and that seems to be the majority, have fears about how it will operate. They are particularly concerned about the chaos that could arise during the interim period when individual regulators are subsumed into the new authority.

Formal integration of the SROs into the Super-SIB will not be completed until late 1999 or early 2000.

The Bill that will pave the way for this will not be published for consultation until summer of next year. Yet in the meantime, says Mr Darling, the regulators are already beavering away to plan the practical aspects of reform.

Cynics from the business world will suspect that this scenario could allow bureaucrats to become engrossed in such vital details as the placing of desks and the wording on the letterheads, while a few wide boys were left to roam free among the unsuspecting punters who would buy a pension from a bookie who told them it was a guaranteed winner for retirement.

Howard Davies has a formidable task in bringing together the new regulator and the people to run it. And while he gets on with that, he is likely to find the Government building up a list of things that need attention. Mr Darling, for instance, wants the regulators to take a look at the commission structures that might be thought to encourage hungry salesmen to flog the occasional inappropriate, but expensive, financial product.

Inntrepreneurial opening in prospect

Could the dire saga of Inntrepreneur be about to come to an end? The pub company has heaped misery upon tenants and owners alike but the word is that venture capitalists are beginning to look enthusiastically on the business. The joint owners, Grand Metropolitan and Fosters, the Australian brewer, would be likely to greet any reasonable offer with unseemly gratitude.

In theory, the company has been heading, bumpily, towards stock market flotation, but Fosters recently indicated that it would prefer an early release from this Courage relic.

Inntrepreneur's unhappy history has made it the brunt of numerous attacks by publicans, attracted a stream of potentially ruinous legal actions and brought it into the bad books of Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister. But brush away the past and there is a company with close to 3,000 pubs and turnover of more than £1 billion. The scope to improve on last year's measly £10 million profit is enough to attract the more imaginative financiers stalking the City in search of deals.

Valuations on the business start around £600 million but, given the fancy ratings awarded to pub companies such as JD Wetherspoon at the moment, the estimates escalate to double that. The imponderable is the extent of the outstanding liability on all the legal actions.

The scale of financial failures that hit Inntrepreneur tenants was the clearest indication of a company whose terms of trade were drafted with but one beneficiary in mind. Aggrieved publicans have joined forces to fight Inntrepreneur in the courts, and have talked of damages that could top £500 million. But the indications from Brussels are that a crucial contention in their case, that their leases were illegal under European competition law, might not stand up.

If the threat of never-ending legal action and unquantifiable damages can be put to one side, Inntrepreneur becomes instantly more desirable. And the company has been doing its bit by encouraging publicans to sign up to a new working arrangement that is to their mutual benefit.

Industry-followers believe that the plan is a sensible prototype for pub companies of the future. Just the thing for a venture capitalist to pounce upon.

First direct line is a logical link

Few people can claim to have had such an impact on the financial services industry as Peter Wood. The unassuming founder of Direct Line has quite literally transformed the way in which insurance is sold. Now Virgin Direct and others have taken a leaf out of his book to use the telephone to purvey mortgages and other general investments such as personal equity plans. The Royal Bank of Scotland can also take credit for giving such a free thinking and restless entrepreneur enough leeway to get on and grow the business. Such faith has been repaid in spades not to mention profits. But such success has also put the spotlight on RBS for other reasons. The City remains convinced that HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, is poised to bid for RBS, with a fall back of trying for Abbey National.

HSBC's logic is hard to fault. By buying RBS it would have Direct Line, the most successful insurer of its kind to link up with First Direct, its banking counterpart owned by Midland. Similarly, HSBC's Marine Midland operation on the East coast of the United States would complement RBS's Citizens savings and loans business also on the East coast. Of all the strange banking bedfellows being touted around the Square Mile, the HSBC link-up with RBS has the most sensible ring about it.

Putting in the boot

IF, as is rumoured, the Chancellor is looking at ways of letting the Exchequer take a heavier slice of "fat cat" bonuses, the details of the Boots scheme are likely to encourage him in his endeavours. A bonus earned by failure to hit budgets is as spurious as a guaranteed bonus. If companies are squeamish about admitting to the salaries they intend paying, they should rethink the amount, not call it something else.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Bottle bank: David McCall, chairman of Greene King: "The results from the enlarged group prove that we can hack it as a management team"

Brewer's results boosted by Magic formula

By Dominic Walsh

THE £200 million acquisition of the Magic Pub Company boosted Greene King, the regional brewer, which yesterday unveiled annual pre-tax profits up 49 per cent, to £36.7 million, before one-off items.

At the time of the purchase of the 260-strong group last July there were suggestions that the East Anglia-based brewer was paying too full a price. However, brokers reacted positively to yesterday's figures, marking the shares up 2½p to 650p.

The company has already converted 10 managed houses to the popular Hungry Horse concept developed by Magic Pub, and in some cases turnover has doubled in the new format. A further 17 conversions are envisaged in the current financial year.

Magic Pub's 43-week contribution to turnover amounted to £80.3 million — up 11 per cent — with food sales jumping 20 per cent to £17.9 million. That helped to push Greene King's total turnover in the 52 weeks to May 3 to £253.6 million, up from £165 million in the previous 53-week financial period.

The company took an exceptional charge of £16 million, of which £2 million was the cost of integrating the Magic Pub business. About £14 million was the result of overhauling its brewing and distribution costs, which saw the closure of its brewery in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, with 132 redundancies.

A final dividend of 11.6p makes 16.35p for the year, up 12 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Windfall tax plea against penalising good performers

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

WESSEX WATER yesterday made a last-minute plea to the Treasury that the windfall tax should not penalise companies that are good performers.

With the tax about to be outlined in next week's Budget, Nick Hood, chairman, has urged the Treasury to base calculations on the value of companies immediately after privatisation rather than now.

But analysts believe that it is highly unlikely that such a route will be taken as one of the grounds on which the tax has been defended is that the utilities were sold too cheaply.

Mr Hood argues that a share price for companies six months after privatisation would be a better measure than recent prices.

He said: "After eight years there is a lot of confusion and other factors in the price." Wessex and all other water companies were floated at 240p. Yesterday its price was 1p down at 385½. Wessex has had a share split and a capital restructuring so a comparable value would be about 772p.

The company's pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 rose 8 per cent to £145 million. The final dividend of 12.3p is due on October 1, making a total of 18p, up from 15.2p in the previous year. Earnings rose from 47.7p to 52.2p.

Mr Hood, along with most utility chiefs, has been keen to emphasise to the Treasury the difference in performance and shareholder returns between the companies. The many appeals for individual treatment highlight the difficulty for the Chancellor in crafting a methodology that will apply equally to all the companies to be hit by the tax.

Mr Hood, whose company has not suffered losses on diversification and which is regarded as a good performer within the industry, said: "Companies which have not had to bear exceptional provisions for non-core activities and which haven't had to suffer restructuring costs should not suffer from the tax because their performance is better."

Analysts are expecting Wessex to be hit with a windfall tax bill of about £60 million.

The company has not ruled out further shareholder returns after the windfall tax and has a mandate to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares. Earlier this year it completed a £185 million buyback. With gearing of 37 per cent if preference shares are taken into account, it has plenty of room to gear up. The company believes that it can stretch to 100 per cent gearing if shareholder returns or acquisitions trigger a need.

Wessex followed the aggressive dividend policy of other water companies by raising its payment for the year 18 per cent. Mr Hood said that the rise was fuelled by non-core operations and cutting costs in the core business. The dividend increase was also exaggerated by the share buyback.

Wessex had pledged to cut leakages, currently at 23 per cent, to 15 per cent soon into the next century. Mandatory leakage targets are to be implemented by the Government after its recent summit with the water companies.

SkyePharma makes 'Prozac advance'

By Paul Durman

SKYEPHARMA, the drug development company, is understood to have produced an improved version of Prozac, Eli Lilly's $2 billion-selling anti-depressant.

Confirmation is likely this year when it files for regulatory approval. The improved drug would have reduced side-effects and last longer, and would be the most important drug to emerge from SkyePharma's "black box", the secret project undertaken by Jago, its Swiss-based drug delivery arm.

With a 3 per cent royalty, an improved Prozac could be worth £36 million a year to SkyePharma, which lost £11.3 million last year. The new product is unlikely to be available before 1999.

□ Brightstone Pharma, SkyePharma's American subsidiary, has filed for US food and drug administration approval of Iopamidol, an imaging agent used in x-ray diagnosis. Iopamidol is a generic version of Isovue, a $360 million drug that lost its patent at the end of last year.

Vets' supplier sold by Gehe

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals company that bought Lloyds Chemists earlier this year, has begun its planned disposal of some parts of the business by agreeing to a £52 million management buyout of the veterinary division (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Mercury Asset Management is investing £16.85 million in the buyout. The division distributes drugs and instruments to veterinary practices. Current-year profit of £4.5 million, on turnover of £120 milion, is forecast.

Gehe also wants to sell Holland & Barrett, the healthfood chain, and Martindales Pharmaceuticals.

ML Laboratories signals progress

By Fraser Nelson

ML LABORATORIES has claimed the first signs of success in its attempt to develop an HIV treatment that significantly slows the development of the Aids virus.

The drug development company, which has spent two years working on its D2S HIV treatment, said that some Aids patients who were administered with the treatment had shown greatly reduced levels of viral load in their blood.

The same late-stage patients did not respond to HIV treatments that attack the virus rather than the D2S method of protecting human cells. The treatment is now in Phase III trials, but the company said D2S is still a long way from a definitive proof of success.

The company named Stuart Sim as its new chief executive, taking over from Kevin Leech who stays as chairman. The company, one of the few profitable drug stocks on the market, made a profit of £2.9 million for the half year to March 31, against £83,100 last time. Earnings were 1.69p (0.06p) a share. There is no dividend.

The European Parliament

has issued an open call for tenders
relating to furniture for the public area
of the Espace Léopold Building in rue Wiertz, Brussels.
The total contract is for 106 five-seater seating units
with coffee tables.

The notice to be published in the Official Journal of the European
Communities was sent to the Office for Official Publications
of the European Communities on 06/06/97.

You may request the contract documents by faxing
the Equipment Service,
BAK Building, Room 4/67 at L-2929 Luxembourg
Fax No. (+352) 4300 4918
quoting reference 'A.O public areas'.

The deadline for the submission of tenders is 05/08/97.

City salaries up to £1,000 a day

By Chris Ayres

CITY salaries have increased by nearly 5 per cent over the past three months, with some professionals now earning up to £1,000 a day, a survey has found.

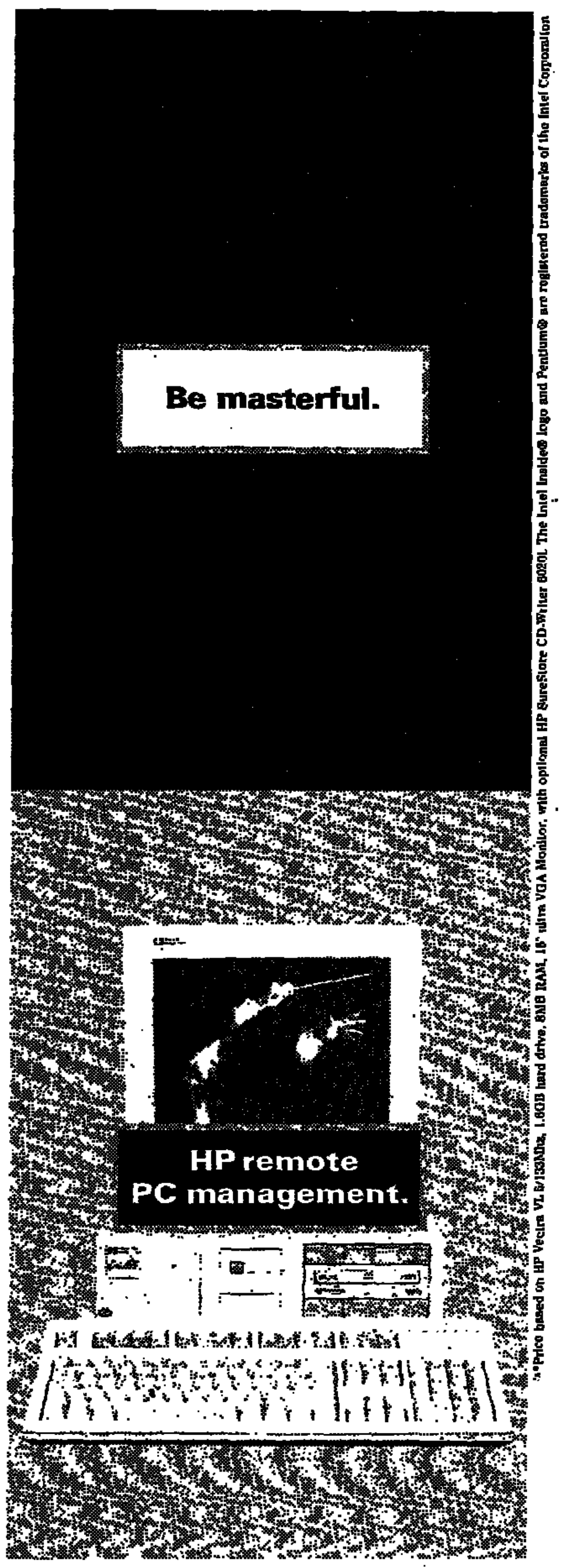
The survey also suggests that City firms have to give employees an average 24 per cent increase in pay to attract them from their present jobs. The massive rise in pay has been blamed on a shortage of skilled employees in the financial and business sector, with vacancies in both sectors having risen by nearly 37 per cent since this time last year.

Roger Steare, chief executive of Jonathan Wren, the recruitment company that carried out the survey in partnership with Watson Wyatt, said: "We have seen over the past couple of years a tremendous amount of growth in jobs. Many employers are finding it increasingly difficult to fill these posts and there is an increasing price for what companies have to pay for certain sets of skills."

Howard Coate, head of European human resources for Watson Wyatt, said: "We are getting the first hints that skills shortages are going to push up pay levels at a rate which could affect inflation."

Graduate salaries in the City are also going up according to the survey, with young professionals now starting on an average of £17,500: about £2,000 more than the national average wage. The jobs that are most sought after are information technology support, fund managers, commercial underwriters, actuaries, pensions administrators and secretaries.

Nearly half of the all the companies interviewed felt that new technology was the most important factor in creating new skills. About a third said that changes in work practices and multi-skilling had also demanded a need for new skills. A greater focus on customer services was also believed to create new skills.



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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

City turns blind eye to public shaming of L&G

LEGAL & GENERAL's "naming and shaming" in the pensions mis-selling scandal does not appear to have the desired affect on the City that the Government intended. Confounding Whitehall officials, the price raced up 10½p to 423p as one leading securities upgraded the shares. SBC Warburg, the broker, has changed its view and is urging clients to buy.

On Tuesday, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, publicly condemned both L&G and and the Sedgwick Group for failing to understand the Government's determination to resolve the pensions mis-selling scandal. She likened them to alcoholics unable to admit they had a problem. One and a half million people are estimated to have lost thousands of pounds each after being given poor pensions advice between 1988 and 1994.

The rest of the equity market was able to extend its recovery with the help of a strong overnight performance on Wall Street and a positive response to the latest £2 billion gilt auction. With the Dow Jones industrial average opening sharply ahead again last night, the FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day, with a rise of 43.7 points to 4,640.0.

Heavy turnover in selected blue chips boosted the total number of shares changing hands, to 925 million.

Revived institutional support lifted **Centrica** 4p to 70¼p as 22.3 million shares were traded. There was also heavy turnover in **BT** (22.6 million shares) up 9p at 454p.

T&N tumbled 16½p to 143p after the US Supreme Court threw out a $1.3 billion (£783 million) asbestosis claims settlement. It had been hoped that the settlement involving 20 asbestosis manufacturers and hundreds of thousands of personal injury claims would have resolved the dispute and drawn a line under T&N's potential losses.

Support for the banking sector persisted, with **Halifax** chased 13p higher to 773½p on turnover of 14.18 million shares. The newly floated group says that it will return money to shares in the form of increased dividends if it fails to find suitable takeover targets.

Abbey National continues to be viewed as a potential takeover target, with the price adding 26p at 828p. **Barclays** surged 41½p to £12.14½ after ruling out a possible bid for troubled **NatWest Group**, 7½p easier at 817½p.

Royal Bank of Scotland suffered a double whammy, with its price falling 22½p to 575½p after Peter Wood, the man who founded its Direct Line insurance business, announced that he was leaving to further his fortunes in the US and Spain.

HSBC, up 24p at £18.86, is playing down claims that it is poised to bid for RBS.

There was further activity among the television companies as **Granada** launched its long awaited bid for **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television**, up 2½p at £11.75½. The terms of two new Granada shares and £18.25 in cash values Yorkshire at £11.75, or £711 million. This year Yorkshire had insisted that any bid would have to be pitched around the £17 level. Granada, down 10½p at 844p, owns 25 per cent of the shares.

BSkyB rallied 3½p to 471p as City fund managers began to ponder the group's prospects after being forced to sell its third stake in British Digital Communications. Brokers point out that BSkyB is likely to remain the main source of programmes to be broadcast on the three terrestrial digital channels operated by its former partners Granada and Carlton Communications, steady at 525p.

It was the first day of dealings for **SGB**, the scaffolding group demerged from **John Mowlem**, ½p easier at 129p. Placed at 150p, SGB opened at 157½p, its best of the day, before settling at 156p, a 6p premium. Almost 3 million shares were traded by the close of business.

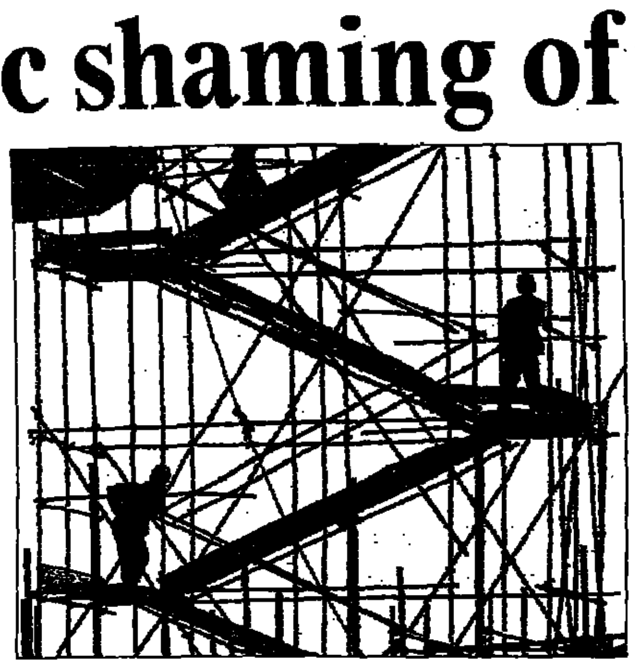
Greene King celebrated a near 50 per cent leap in pre-tax profits with a rise of 6p at 653½p. The group benefited from last year's acquisition of the Magic Pub chain.

Exceptional losses saw **Somic** plunge into the red last year, but the group insists that current trading is buoyant and that cushioned the fall in the shares which closed 2½p lower at 131½p.

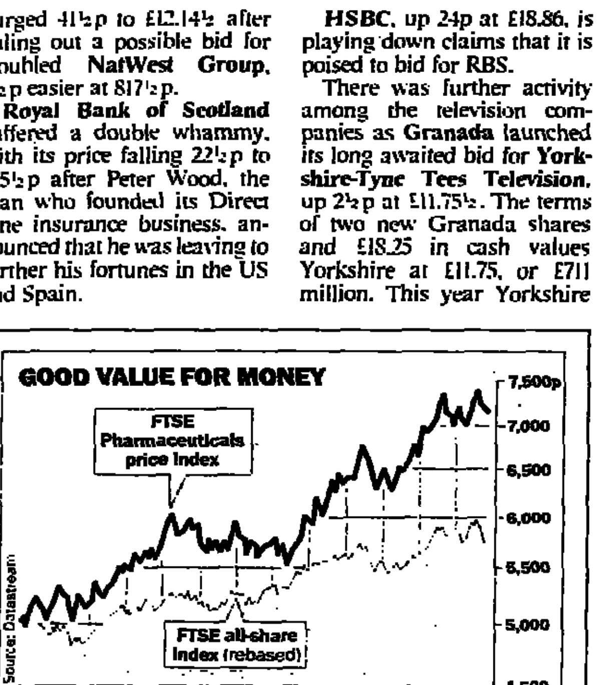
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The success of the latest auction enabled the rest of the bond market to extend this week's rally. The Bank of England issued £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2003 which was 2.71 times oversubscribed attracting bids worth almost £5.5 billion.

Prices elsewhere scored gains ranging to £½ at the longer end as the market made up some of the recent lost ground on Continental rivals. In the futures pit, the September series of the **Long Gilt** finished £13/32 higher at £113 15/16, as a total of 82,000 contracts were completed. In longs, **Treasury 8 per cent** was £15/32 better at £108 23/32, while in shorts **Treasury 8 per cent 2000** firmed £3/16 to £102 13/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares turned down by midday after a choppy morning that saw blue chips slip on profit-taking, recover as bargain hunters and portfolio managers re-emerged and then slid again. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 35.97 at 7,794.03.



SGB shares built a 6p premium on the first day of dealing



Source: Datastream

DRUG shares raced up on the back of a strong performance overnight on Wall Street, where Bristol Myers Squibb saw its share price jump almost 10 per cent. Overall, the drug sector rose 4 per cent.

In contrast, British drug companies have been sluggish, having underperformed the rest of the market by around 10 per cent during the past four months and creating a large value gap.

The best gains were seen among the leaders, with Glaxo Wellcome up 25p to £12.77½, SmithKline Beecham 27½p to £10.76 and Zeneca 42p to £19.36. But there were also mark-ups for SkyPharma, 4p to 87p, Celltech 3½p to 277½p and Scotia Holdings 2½p to 325p.

Kevin Scotcher at NatWest Securities, the broker, this week moved his recommendation for SmithKline Beecham from a "hold" to "add".

He says that the gap has begun to narrow. "British drug companies have today begun the process of catching up. They are looking very cheap compared to US rivals".

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7794.03 (+35.97)
S&P Composite .... 900.32 (+3.98)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 20679.27 (+337.34)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 15065.02 (+174.06)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 870.46 (+10.40)

Sydney:
AO .... 2705.1 (+16.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3798.51 (+42.69)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2023.86 (-17.52)

Brussels:
General .... 13585.00 (+159.36)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2867.44 (+82.68)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1163.70 (+12.30)

London:
FT 30 .... 2999.2 (+20.7)
FTSE 100 .... 4640.0 (+43.7)
FTSE 250 .... 4453.5 (+6.2)
FTSE 350 .... 2244.0 (+17.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2511.55 (+31.72)
FTSE All-Share .... 2199.97 (+16.37)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2220.12 (+13.23)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 123.77 (+0.41)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 96.49 (+0.23)
Bargains 52646
SEAQ Volume 925.7m
US$ .... 1.6640 (-0.0011)
German Mark .... 2.8676 (-0.00411)
Exchange Index .... 101.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4604
£:SDR 1.1985
RPI .... 156.9 May (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 156.3 May (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aston Villa	837½	...
Caradon B	80	...
Gallaher	285½	+ 1½
Heart of Midlothian	110½	...
Highland Timber	124½	...
Integrated As Mgmt	135	...
Longbridge Intl	117½	...
Norwich Union (290)	326½	+ ½
Powderject Pharms	197½	+ 1
Reabourne Merlin	110	...
Royalblue Group	206	...
SBS Group	110½	...
SGB Group	156	...
Topps Tiles	112½	...
Versalite Group	3½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark n/p (200)	18½	- 1½
Century Inns n/p (155)	1½	...
Millwall Hldgs n/p (1)	¼	...
Waterfall n/p (75)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Flying Flw Uts .... 352½p (+24p)
Adam & Harvey .... 295p (+20p)
DCS Gp .... 238½p (+16p)
Cairn Energy .... 495p (+28½p)
Blacks Leis .... 442½p (+25p)
Cater Allen .... 580p (+22½p)
Parity .... 506½p (+18p)
Bank Scotland .... 399p (+14p)
Abbey Natl .... 828p (+26p)
Shield Diag .... 502½p (+15p)
Legal & Gen .... 423p (+10½p)
BR Land .... 563p (+13p)
Photobition .... 534p (+10p)
Com Union .... 666½p (+12p)

FALLS:
T & N .... 143p (-16½p)
Yorks Gp .... 196p (-16½p)
IMI .... 358½p (-10p)
Diagonal .... 324p (-8½p)
BAT .... 553p (-11p)
Br Airways .... 687½p (-13p)
Granada .... 844p (-10½p)
Birkby .... 154½p (-15p)
Gold Fields Prop .... 176p (-10½p)
Gaskell .... 224p (-12p)
Domino .... 332p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Clouding the issue

THE collapse of the Georgine settlement procedure should not worry T&N. Last year, the automotive components group erected a £1.2 billion ringfence round its potential liability to victims of asbestos-related injuries. The scheme was constructed on the assumption that Georgine — the settlement procedure whereby genuine claimants were offered settlements under an administrative procedure rather than through litigation in the courts — would not survive. Yesterday's T&N share price fall at T&N, therefore, makes little sense. However, the US tobacco industry may wonder how solid any cap on future claims by smokers will prove to be under the legislation due to be passed by Congress.

The market seems incapable of making a consistent judgment about T&N's value. Asbestos is only part of the problem although the poisonous dust has a way of clouding the issue. The issue that needs to be addressed is whether T&N's businesses are capable of generating value, leaving aside asbestos. The answer is emphatically yes, and more so since T&N tightened up its working capital.

T&N's automotive businesses are earning a return of about 15 per cent on capital employed. Potentially more important is the 8 per cent return after tax and capital investment, which offers a bidder with a large balance sheet a juicy prize. After yesterday's fall, T&N is capitalised at a mere £760 million. With the Ferodo brakes worth £300 to £400 million and powdered metal worth £200 million a bidder at this price would be getting a lot of T&N for free. The predator would need to fund a £300 million asbestos provision, but a company like GKN could easily stomach that liability.

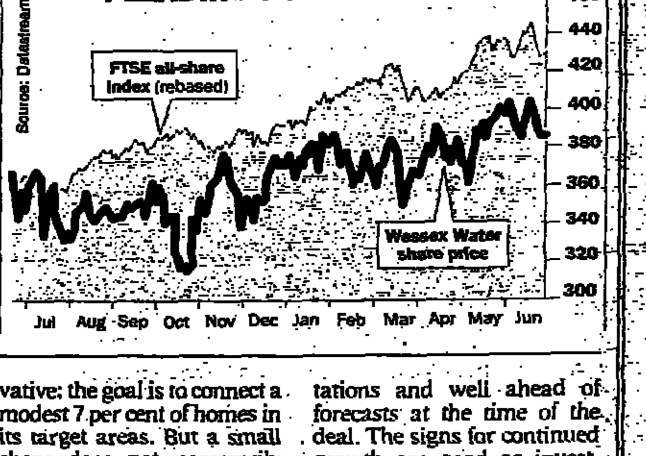
Wessex Water

WESSEX WATER'S call for clemency over the windfall tax is unlikely to find favour with the Treasury but the company has a point. Grabbing funds that should have gone to the taxpayer in the initial sale, or accrued to the consumer via keener regulation, is one thing. It is quite another to hit a company harder because it has succeeded through showing greater efficiency than its peers.

Wessex is different. It has been one of the star performers of the water sector primarily because it has not invested in daft diversifications and because it has achieved demanding cost reductions.

It has further scope to reward shareholders in future even after it has shelled out what could turn out to be a £60 million windfall tax payment. Gearing is relatively low at 37 per cent, if preference shares are taken into account, so there is plenty of room for manoeuvre. Wessex has said that it could feel comfortable with a debt to equity ratio of almost 100 per cent if it felt it appropriate to return value to shareholders and/or buy new businesses. With its bid for South West Water ruled out of court it is more likely that acquisitions will be small and that the company would look at further shareholder returns.

With dividend growth expected to be strong, at least until the next price review in 2000, Wessex shares are worth hanging on to.



Source: Datastream

Ionica

IONICA has developed a clever thing called fixed radio access, which allows phone signals to be zapped through the air by radio transmitters to small, roof-mounted antennas.

There is nothing wrong with the system; it works, even in the rain. The question is whether it has a use; almost every householder in Britain already owns a reliable phone.

Ionica, which plans to raise £125 million next month in its first public offering, will not succeed unless it can convince BT customers to drop their copper wire service and switch to a dish. The strategy is to make switching easy — phones and faxes do not have to be replaced, existing phone numbers can be kept and the connection fee is only £10 — and to offer cheaper prices than BT.

Still not convinced? Well neither, in a sense, is Ionica. Its forecasts are ultra conservative: the goal is to connect a modest 7 per cent of homes in its target areas. But a small share does not necessarily mean meagre profits. With relatively cheap installation costs — unlike the cable companies, it does not need to dig holes in the ground — Ionica's connection costs are less than one third those of cable's.

Networks built in the air eat up less capital than those built in the ground. This, combined with conservative growth forecasts, could make the shares an interesting bet.

Greene King

LACKING a case of champagne, Greene King has to resort to Abbott Ale to celebrate a sparkling set of results. Eyebrows were raised last year when the brewer strayed south from its East Anglian heartland to pay £200 million for the Magic Pub Company. But the 49 per cent jump in profits was at the top end of analysts' expectations and well ahead of forecasts at the time of the deal. The signs for continued growth are good as investment is pumped into Magic Pub concepts such as Hungry Horse. Even its tenanted estate is holding its own in the face of tricky market conditions.

There is also upside in brewing where a £14 million restructuring is underway and heavy marketing spend is helping Abbott Ale to retain market share in the face of an assault from the nitro keg beers such as Caffrey's.

Meanwhile, Greene King's own nitro keg product, Wexford Irish Ale, is benefiting from TV and trade exposure with a second such beer under development.

Much encouraged, the City is upgrading its profit estimates for the year to around £45 million — and with the ever-present whiff of a possible takeover — the stock looks a good bet.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1121-1110	Sep	1186-1184
Sep	1138-1136	Dec	1196-1195
Dec	1141-1140	Mar	1207-1206
Mar	1151-1150	May	unq
May	1163-1161		
Jul	1175-1172	Volume:	8092

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1820-1810	Mar	unq
Sep	1850-1848	May	[illegible]
Nov	unq	Jul	[illegible]
Jan	1790-1772	Volume:	2623

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	[illegible]
Spot: 322.0		May	[illegible]
Aug	[illegible]	Aug	[illegible]
Oct	[illegible]	Oct	[illegible]
Dec	[illegible]	Volume:	[illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 24

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eng/Wales	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scotland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.50	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Aug)	17.75	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Sep)	17.95	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	18.95	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	19.10	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	185 (-3)	187 (-5)
Gasoil EEC	159 (-2)	161 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (n/c)	83 (n/c)
Naphtha	171 (-2)	173 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jul	162.25-60.50	Oct	167.00-67.25
Aug	162.00-62.25	Nov	169.00-69.25
Sep	164.25-64.50		Vol: 13561

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jul	17.75-17.70	Oct	18.25-18.28
Aug	17.95-17.96	Nov	18.32-18.37
Sep	18.13-18.15		Vol: 25025

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jul	81.50	Sep	82.10
Sep	84.00	Nov	85.10
Nov	86.75	Jan	87.10
Jan	88.85	Mar	89.10
Mar	90.90	May	90.00
Volume:	25	Volume:	54

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	55.0
Mar		60.0
Apr	65.0	65.0
		Volume: 16

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jul [illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jun 97	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jul 97	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aug 97	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oct 97	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vol: [illegible]		Open interest: [illegible]	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol.
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lead ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tin ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nickel ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

June 25, 1997 Tot: [illegible] Call: [illegible] Put: [illegible] FTSE Call: [illegible] Put: [illegible]
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	114-00	114-11	114-00	114-11	40
Previous open interest: 160419	Sep 97	113-15	114-08	113-14	113-30	82847
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	101.60	101.76	101.54	101.71	196236
Previous open interest: 251882	Dec 97	100.66	100.80	100.60	100.77	3832
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	133.93	134.74	133.85	134.58	69719
Previous open interest: 92021	Dec 97				107.03	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	123.06	123.32	123.01	123.12	2631
	Dec 97	122.56	122.62	122.56	122.48	10
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.95	92.99	92.95	92.97	20702
	Dec 97	92.74	92.80	92.74	92.78	21737
Previous open interest: 463191	Mar 98	92.62	92.70	92.62	92.68	15018
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.83	96.84	96.83	96.83	14876
Previous open interest: 1117095	Dec 97	96.73	96.75	96.72	96.74	39472
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.56	93.56	93.47	93.54	35029
Previous open interest: 314216	Dec 97	93.91	93.98	93.87	93.97	22912
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97	99.01	99.09	99.03	99.03	501
	Mar 98	98.78	98.78	98.77	98.77	500
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.53	98.53	98.48	98.53	7300
Previous open interest: 125070	Dec 97	98.36	98.37	98.32	98.37	5621
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.81	95.83	95.83	95.86	1090
Previous open interest: 40242	Dec 97	95.80	95.81	95.79	95.81	231
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4650.0	4671.0	4642.0	4664.0	11930
Previous open interest: [illegible]	Dec 97	4710.0	4720.0	4706.0	4722.0	105

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high [illegible] Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]; Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible] close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.60	n/a	5.70	5.78	6.07
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $337.65-338.15 Close: $338.30-338.80 High: $339.00-339.40
Low: $337.10-337.60 AM: $338.70 PM: $338.15

Krugerrand: $326.00-340.00 (£205.25-206.25)

Platinum: $416.00 (£249.95) **Silver:** $4.78 (£2.875) **Palladium:** $196.00 (£117.76)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for June 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2224-3.2351	3.2269-3.2290	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	59.000-59.330	59.137-59.234	0.10-0.14pr	58-0.49pr
Copenhagen	10.901-10.946	10.918-10.929	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.0923-1.1014	1.0935-1.0956	5pr-1ds	18-11pr
Frankfurt	2.8626-2.8736	2.8665-2.8691	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	288.94-290.04	289.19-289.53	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	241.75-242.18	241.98-242.33	31-20pr	1.04-85pr
Milan	2797.1-2805.5	2797.1-2801.0	1pr-1ds	9pr-1ds
Montreal	2.3196-2.3247	2.3214-2.3236	0.73-0.68pr	1.42-1.38pr
New York	1.6635-1.6674	1.6635-1.6645	0.14-0.12pr	0.448-0.417pr
Oslo	12.032-12.073	12.057-12.073	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.6590-9.7000	9.6757-9.6852	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.773-12.851	12.773-12.793	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	189.20-189.92	189.45-189.73	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.143-20.225	20.171-20.191	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3844-2.4011	2.3908-2.3936	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.3297-1.3315
Austria 12.11-12.12
Belgium (Com) 35.55-35.56
Canada 1.3949-1.3954
Denmark 6.5600-6.5620
France 5.8164-5.8204
Germany 1.7221-1.7228
Hong Kong 7.7448-7.7458
Ireland 1.5168-1.5188
Italy 1682.4-1683.4
Japan 113.65-113.75
Malaysia 2.5230-2.5240
Netherlands 1.9384-1.9394
Norway 7.2436-7.2486
Portugal 173.77-173.87
Singapore 1.4260-1.4270
Spain 145.50-145.64
Sweden 7.6755-7.6830
Switzerland 1.4370-1.4380

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.6647-1.6674
Australia dollar 2.2137-2.2180
Bahrain dinar 0.6225-0.6345
Brazil real* 1.7920-1.7965
China yuan 13.670-13.970
Cyprus pound 0.8445-0.8545
Finland markka 8.5375-8.6535
Greece drachma 448.75-455.75
Hong Kong dollar 12.8928-12.9022
India rupee 59.23-60.19
Indonesia rupiah 4022.0-4040.0
Kuwait dinar KD 0.4900-0.5000
Malaysia ringgit 4.2008-4.2150
New Zealand dollar 2.4271-2.4303
Pakistan rupee .... 66.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 6.0075-6.1315
Singapore dollar 2.3743-2.3774
S Africa rand (com) 7.4610-7.5630
U A E dirham 6.0625-6.1805
*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	564	Land Secs	2,600
ASDA Gp	6,000	Legal & Gn	2,600
Abbey Ntl	8,000	Lloyds TSB	8,700
Allied Dom	1,900	LucasVarity	3,800
AB Foods	3,700	Marks Spr	14,400
BAA	1,600	Mercury AA	695
BAT Inds	7,500	NatWst Bk	9,900
BG	22,200	Nat Grid	2,900
BOC	287	Nat Power	2,600
BP	11,000	Next	6,400
BSkyB	11,700	Orange	1,300
BTR	10,100	P & O	436
BT	22,600	Pearson	1,200
Bk of Scot	2,300	PowerGen	1,700
Barclays	2,800	Prudential	2,700
Bass	4,300	RMC	761
Blue Circle	4,100	Railtrack	3,700
Boots	946	Rank Group	4,400
BAe	2,100	Reckitt Col	663
BA	2,100	Reed Intl	1,900
British Land	1,900	Rentokil	2,600
Brit Steel	10,700	Reuters	5,100
Burmah Cstl	1,500	Rio Tinto	5,000
Burton	3,400	Rolls Royce	10,000
Cable Wire	18,000	Royal & Sun	6,100
Cadbury	1,400	Royal Bk Sct	5,100
Carlton Cms	1,800	Safeway	11,400
Centrica	23,300	Sainsbury	3,300
Cm Union	4,700	Schroders	44
Dixons	836	Scot & New	660
EMI	1,100	Scot Power	3,000
Energy Gp	587	Svrn Trent	752
Enterpr Oil	813	Shell Trans	3,500
GKN	901	Siebe	5,400
GRE	1,600	SmKl Bch	5,000
GUS	2,600	Smith Nph	3,600
Gen Acc	1,400	Smiths Inds	626
Gen Elec	5,700	Std Chartd	5,800
Glaxo Well	6,100	TI Gp	1,100
Granada	5,700	Tate & Lyle	2,700
Grand Met	3,400	Tesco	3,400
Guinness	2,000	Thames W	773
HSBC	2,900	Tomkins	4,500
Hanson	520	Unilever	5,900
Hays	700	Utd Utilities	1,300
ICI	5,300	Utd News	3,300
Imp Tob	791	Vodafone	5,700
Kingfisher	1,400	Whitbread	786
LASMO	6,300	Wolseley	1,400
Ladbroke	7,300	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Jun 25 midday	Jun 24 close
AMP Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advanced Micro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aetna Life	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	[illegible]	85
AirTouch Comm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Albertson's	37	[illegible]
Alcan Alumnm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Signal	[illegible]	84
Alum Co of Am	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	54	54
Amer El Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Stores	[illegible]	50
Amer Standard	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ameritech	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amoco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amgen	[illegible]	[illegible]
Andrew Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Anheuser-Busch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Apple Computer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Archer Daniels	22	[illegible]
Armco	[illegible]	4
Armstrong Wrld	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atl Richfield	72	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Autom Data Pro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avery Dennison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baker Hughes	[illegible]	[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	[illegible]	[illegible]
Banc One	[illegible]	[illegible]
BankAmerica	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barnett Banks	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	46	[illegible]
Baxter Intl	[illegible]	55
Becton Dickinsn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	[illegible]	75
Bellsouth	44	[illegible]
Black & Decker	[illegible]	[illegible]
Block (H&R)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boston Scien	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	[illegible]	[illegible]
Browning Ferris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brunswick	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	[illegible]	[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
CPC Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
CSX	[illegible]	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Case Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caterpillar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central & SW	[illegible]	[illegible]
Champion Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chevron Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chubb Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cigna Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clorox	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coastal Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colgate-Palm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia/HCA	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comp Ass Intl	55	[illegible]
ConAgra	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cooper Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corestates	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	41
Crown Cork	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dana Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Digital Equip	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	[illegible]	82
Dominion Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Jones	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dresser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Duke Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Jun 25 midday	Jun 24 close
Edison Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emerson Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Enron Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Entergy	27	[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exxon	[illegible]	[illegible]
FMC Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
FPL Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
Federal Express	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fifth Third Banc	[illegible]	[illegible]
First Bk Sys	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fluor Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford Motor	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fortune Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
GTE Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gannett	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gap Inc Del	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Motors	57	[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	[illegible]	184
Gen Signal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Genuine Parts	[illegible]	[illegible]
Georgia Pac	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glaxo Wellc ADR	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grt Atl Pac Tea	[illegible]	[illegible]
Great Westn Fin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Halliburton	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harcourt General	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hercules	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hershey Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	55	[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	[illegible]	[illegible]
Home Depot	[illegible]	[illegible]
Homestake Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]
Household Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Houston Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Humana	[illegible]	[illegible]
ITT Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ikon Office	[illegible]	24
Illinois Tool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Illinova	[illegible]	[illegible]
INCO	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intel Corp	[illegible]	148
IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intl Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
James River Va	[illegible]	[illegible]
Johnson & Johnsn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kellogg	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kerr McGee	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kmart	[illegible]	[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Limited Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lincoln Nat	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liz Claiborne	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	[illegible]	[illegible]
MCI Comm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mallinckrodt Inc	47	[illegible]
Marriott Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marsh & McLnn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Masco Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
May Dept St	[illegible]	[illegible]
Maytag Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDonalds	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDonnell D	[illegible]	[illegible]
McGraw Hill	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mead Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Medtronic	[illegible]	84
Mellon Bk	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merck Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merrill Lynch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Microsoft	[illegible]	[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	[illegible]	101
Mobil Corp	[illegible]	142
Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morgan (JP)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorola Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Natl Semi	[illegible]	[illegible]
Natl Service Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Navistar Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
NY Times A	[illegible]	[illegible]
Newmont Min	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NL Industries	13	13
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ohio Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oracle	50	[illegible]

	Jun 25 midday	Jun 24 close
Oryx Energy Co	[illegible]	20
Owens Corning	44	[illegible]
PPG Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
PMI Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
PNC Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]
PP&L Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paccar Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacificorp	[illegible]	22
Pac Enterprises	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pall Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Parker Hannifin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Peco Energy	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penney (JC)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pennzoil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pfizer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pharm & Upjhn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	[illegible]	[illegible]
Philip Morris	43	[illegible]
Phillips Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pitney Bowes	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polaroid	[illegible]	50
Procter & Gmbl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Providian	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pub Serv E & G	[illegible]	[illegible]
Quaker Oats	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ralston Purina	[illegible]	[illegible]
Raychem Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reebok Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reynolds Metals	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rockwell Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rohm & Haas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Dutch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rubbermaid	[illegible]	[illegible]
SBC Comms	[illegible]	[illegible]
Safeco Corp	49	[illegible]
St Paul's Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]
Salomon Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sara Lee Corp	[illegible]	42
Schering Plough	[illegible]	[illegible]
Schlumberger	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell Trans	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sherwin Wllms	[illegible]	[illegible]
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Sprint Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stanley Works	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sun Company	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sun Micrsys	[illegible]	[illegible]
Suntrust	[illegible]	[illegible]
Supervalu	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sysco Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRW Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TIG Hldgs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tandem Comp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tandy Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Temple Inland	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenet Healthcare	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenneco	[illegible]	[illegible]
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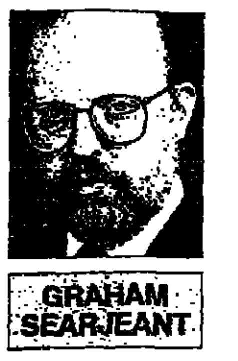
Texas Inst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas Utilities	[illegible]	[illegible]
Textron	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thermo Elect	[illegible]	[illegible]
Time Warner	[illegible]	47
Times-Mirror A	[illegible]	[illegible]
Timken	[illegible]	[illegible]
Torchmark	[illegible]	[illegible]
Toys R Us	[illegible]	[illegible]
Transamerica	[illegible]	[illegible]
Travelers	64	[illegible]
Tribune	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tyco Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
UST Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
UAL	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
US West Comm	[illegible]	[illegible]
US West Media	[illegible]	21
USAirways Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
USX Marathon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unicom	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unilever NV	215	[illegible]
Union Camp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unisys Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
USF&G Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
United Tech	[illegible]	85
Unocal Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
VF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	[illegible]	[illegible]
Waste Mngmt	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westinghouse El	[illegible]	[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whirlpool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whitman	[illegible]	[illegible]
Winn Dixie	[illegible]	40
Witco Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Woolworth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xerox	[illegible]	75
Zenith Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

An elephant trap for Gordon Brown



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

After all those years in the wilderness, the incoming Labour Government was naturally well prepared. In opposition it had developed, with the help of top economists, a coherent strategy to make the economy more dynamic. Tax incentives would encourage industry to invest more, instead of paying profits out in dividends; to think long-term instead of speculating; to create more jobs; and to raise the rate of economic growth.

In his first Budget, the new Chancellor broke with tradition by walking to the House of Commons and carrying the Budget statement in a smart new brown box. "We are changing direction" he said.

James Callaghan, for he it was, duly reformed profits tax in 1965, as well as taxing capital gains. The new flat rate corporation tax cut deductions on profits retained in the business. But dividends were taxed at normal income tax rates on top. This imposed a clear incentive to cut dividends in favour of the greater capital returns to be made from investing higher retained profits. But things did not work out as simply as intended.

Retained profits were cut, shrinking the amount available for investment. Shareholders obliged companies to maintain their dividends, which in most cases absorbed more of the profits than before. And investors continued to favour companies that raised their dividends fastest.

A generation later, surely the well-prepared, long-termist, tradition-breaking, direction-changing Gordon Brown could not fall into the same trap? Oh yes he could.

Ahead of next week's Budget, it has been carefully trailed that the Treasury wants to cut, preferably abolish, the rights of charities, pension funds, personal equity plans, and other gross funds to reclaim the tax pre-paid by companies on their dividends. This wheeze, it is said, is the most painless way to raise another £5 billion on top of the utility levy. A surprising alliance among the economic establishment agrees. In 1993, Norman Lamont cut dividend tax and its other self, companies pay on their dividends, from 25 to 20 per cent.

There were howls of anguish from pension funds. Share prices would tumble because dividends were worth less to them. Companies would have to pay higher contributions to keep pension promises. But share prices fell only mildly, a ten-week blip in a year when the index gained a fifth. Recovery on company profits soon saved the funds. Far from lessening funds' interest in dividends, however, the tax blow sharpened it. Fund managers bullied companies to make share buybacks and pay special dividends that more or less wiped out any Treasury gain in 1994-96, when the buyback tax loophole was closed.

Economists and some investment analysts do not distinguish between cash income and capital gains. Private investors and pension funds do. Retired folk draw a distinction between dividend income and living off their capital. Actuaries usually value the ability of final salary pension funds to meet their obligations by projecting future dividend income. The effect of axing dividend relief is therefore unpredictable. Pension funds will have an incentive to favour capital gains relatively more. Yet funds, Peps and charities will also want to protect their income. There will be heavy pressure on financially strong companies to raise the proportion of profits they pay in dividends to compensate for the tax.

The revenue side is a gamble too. On the projected dividend model, companies will have to raise their contributions to final salary pension schemes over time. The relief on those contributions may absorb about a quarter of the tax that funds can no longer reclaim from the Inland Revenue. Since Mr Lamont's time, however, funds have been subjected to a new solvency regime under the Pensions Act 1995. If all of them failed the test as a result of the drop in values, companies would have to inject so much extra capital into them that the tax relief might well leave the Chancellor with nothing to show for his tax wheeze.

In reality, UK shares prices have risen even more over the past 12 months than in 1993, so the impact is likely to be muted. Overall, however, the change is likely to raise dividend payouts rather than cut them and yield much less revenue than the Treasury originally projected.

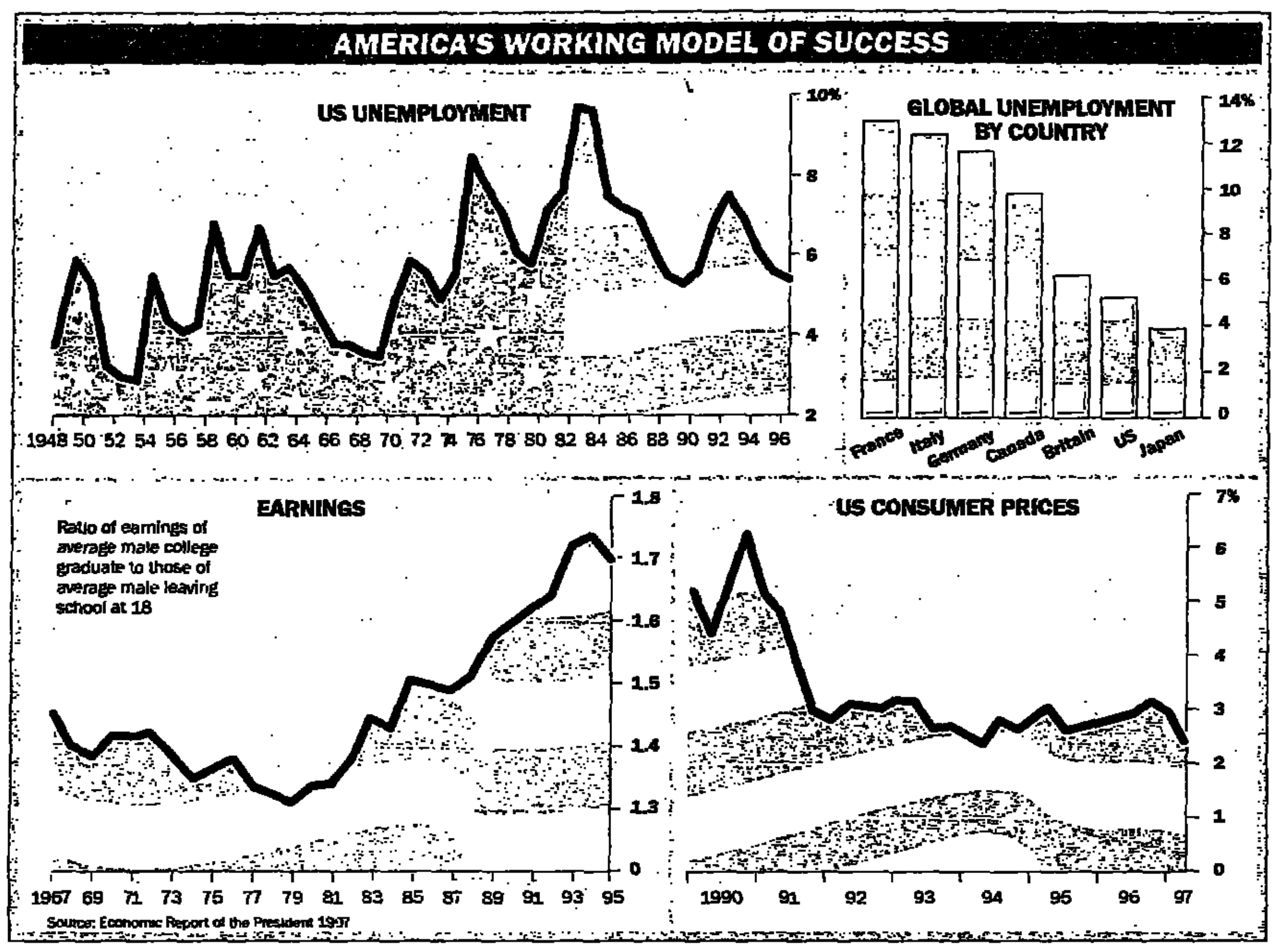
By far the worst effect will be on the attractions of pension funds and personal equity plans, the next most important long-term financial savings vehicle. Faced with higher contribution rates, many more companies will opt instead for fixed contribution schemes, where, as in personal money-purchase schemes, future pensions depend entirely on the performance of the fund. Nothing wrong with that, except that contributions to such funds are usually not high enough to produce a good pension.

In future, total returns to pension fund and Pep investment would almost certainly be lower. Some apologists contend that tax incentives do not affect total savings, only the vehicles savers choose for their money. But if ministers want us to provide more for our retirement, the returns to saving matter as much as how much is saved. People will have smaller pensions to live on. In any case, regular savings do boost total saving, which might otherwise go into a better house or a time-share.

A tax change that raises only half its projected revenue; that boosts dividends when it intends to curb them; and which makes pension funds and Peps so much less attractive that ordinary people would have to be forced to invest more into them, is trebly perverse. With luck, we shall here nothing of it in the Budget, except perhaps the announcement of a study. That would soon expose the elephant trap Mr Brown will otherwise fall into on Wedensday.

This year's model distracts US from economic challenge ahead

Today's boom may be seen as a missed opportunity, says **Bronwen Maddox**



AMERICA'S WORKING MODEL OF SUCCESS

Source: Economic Report of the President 1997

The cowboy hats, denim shirts and rawhide chairs helped. But despite President Clinton's attempt to give the weekend's Denver summit of the world's big industrial democracies a homely, Western, laid-back air, the dominant theme was triumphalism as the United States flaunted its economic health. For the first time in the summit's 22-year history, the Administration claimed, governments had an undisputed working model of success.

By the second day in Denver, complaints from European, Japanese and Canadian delegates were so blunt that US treasury officials were told to tone the message down. But the spirit survived in official documents. "The US is now leading the way with a new economic paradigm," one boasted. Like a company collecting plaudits for its annual report, however irrelevant the authority, the White House noted that "for the past five years, the US has been ranked the world's most competitive economy by the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland". It went on to credit President Clinton, as chief executive of America, with the past seven years of plenty.

The claims made by the US in Denver are not entirely wrong. There has been a transformation, and it has been at least partly because of government policies. But the current moralising, also a striking feature of this year's Economic Report of the President, is threatening to blind officials to the long list of problems that remain.

The Administration is proudest of one figure: in the seven years since the US last played host to the Group of Seven, the federal budget deficit has shrunk from $221 billion to a projected $67 billion this year. Annual growth, then at 1.3 per cent, humiliatingly just a quarter of the rate in Japan and Germany, is expected to reach 3.6 per cent this year, outstripping Japan's 2.3 per cent and Germany's 2.2 per cent.

Those figures are undisputed. The controversy centres around why it has happened, and so on what needs to be done for it to continue. The argument put forward by US officials at Denver is that during this period the US economy has undergone profound changes, which have set it on a course of steady growth with low inflation. In particular, they claim that official figures do not fully reflect the gains in productivity and competitiveness, and so understate the future growth potential of the US economy. The implication is that not much needs to be done for the good times to continue, unsurprisingly a view acceptable to the Administration.

Clearly, the Administration's arguments are at least partly right. There is plenty of evidence that industries which suffered badly from international competition during the 1980s learnt fast; US electronics have hardly recovered the territories surrendered to the Japanese, such as silicon chips, but have forged ahead with personal computers, software and the Internet.

Lessons were learnt fast in more traditional industries as well; many surveys suggest that the corporate restructuring of the first half of this decade, which made "downsizing" a household word, sharply improved the productivity of many manufacturers. While it is notoriously hard to measure accurately the productivity of service businesses, sheaves of academic studies suggest that this too has risen, and is significantly underestimated in official figures.

But the weakness in the US's Denver pronouncements is that it is too early to claim conclusively that productivity gains have driven growth. Sceptics point to labour figures, which suggest that recent growth has been fuelled by an increase in the number of people working and in the time they spend working. The risk is that this trend will eventually push up wages; indeed, pessimists argue that this would already be visible were it not for recent welfare reforms, which have started to force tens of thousands of people off the benefit rolls into the labour market.

The danger of US politicians' present giddy mood is that they prejudge these unresolved debates and overlook the long list of things which may now go wrong. Of those, inflation tops the list, as the International Monetary Fund remarked earlier this week in its annual comment on the US economy. The pressure may come not just from wage inflation, but also from consumer spending.

The financial markets yesterday largely brushed aside a report that consumers were more confident than at any point in the previous 28 years. The markets, however, expect that evidence that this confidence was converting into a big rise in actual spending would force another rise in interest rates.

As Mr Clinton's counterparts gently pointed out at Denver, it is also stretching a point to say that the US has reined in its budget deficits forever. The ageing of the population and the unwillingness so far of American politicians to curtail pensions and medical care for the elderly mean that the budget deficit is expected to widen sharply after 2010, albeit after Mr Clinton has stepped out of the White House door for the last time. The "balanced budget" deal that Mr Clinton has just thrashed out with Congress failed entirely to address this point.

Meanwhile, as European governments were keen to point out, US inequality has widened on many measures during the boom. As the chart shows, a college graduate is now likely to earn even more than an unskilled worker. The US has traditionally been more tolerant of inequality than other G7 members, a point emphasised by the budget, which promotes tax cuts geared to the wealthy. But as Mr Clinton acknowledged at Denver in emphasising the amount that he planned to spend on education, it is not a factor that the US Administration can ignore.

On closer inspection, the much-vaunted transformation of corporate America also looks suspect. In telecommunications and electricity, industries which affect every company's costs, the US has almost entirely failed to push through the deregulation which successive Administrations have agreed is essential: indeed, the complexity of the recent telecoms legislation may frustrate competition for years.

Meanwhile, a more conservative political climate has made it virtually impossible for the President to negotiate new trade agreements, one of the clearest achievements of his first term, which have demonstrably added to US growth in just a few years. With the lapsing of "fast-track" authority — the ability to present bills to Congress on a "take it or leave it" basis, without amendment — Mr Clinton is unlikely to be able to push through an extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement to Latin America.

The US budget deal achieved just weeks before Denver effectively removed the possibility that Mr Clinton would use his second term to address some of these deeper-seated problems with the American economy, in particular the entitlements of the elderly. The US's ebullience at Denver was not absurd; the record of the US economy has been truly remarkable. But pessimists were right to sound the alarm; when the US next hosts the summit, the current boom may seem like a fond memory as well as an opportunity missed.

The 'midwife' and a case of Ruthanasia

Alasdair Murray reports on a lesson of fiscal prudence for the Chancellor

When Ruth Richardson travels the world preaching her message of fiscal prudence, she arrives confident that government and bureaucrats are listening. The former New Zealand Finance Minister is credited as the architect of welfare and policy reforms that have apprently transformed the struggling New Zealand economy from a perennial under-performer to one of the most dynamic.

But her popularity with politicians and technocrats abroad was never matched back in New Zealand. Her radical approach was dubbed "Ruthanasia" as she cut a swath through the welfare state. Her unpopularity plumbed such depths that effigies of her were burnt in street protests.

She was dropped from the Government after the inconclusive 1993 election, but was still able to "midwife" through Parliament the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

It is this novel act, which is the fiscal equivalent of Mr Brown's Bank of England reforms, that she is currently trying to sell to the British. The Act brings transparency and coherence to economic policymaking by defining the financial parameters within which the Government must work.

The Government is obliged to set out its long-term objectives for public sector borrowing, national debt and government expenditure, obliging it to release a balance sheet, in the style of a private company, every month. The budget process is also very different with the Government publicly stating its targets six months before the Budget and releasing a draft version of its plans for parliamentary and public scrutiny.

Ms Richardson says: "The Government is now forced to start by defining its strategic targets and then working out how it will fund these objectives. It has ended the 'rabbit out of the hat' style of economic policymaking."

Ms Richardson believes that this style of reform is very much in tune with Gordon Brown's long-termism. "He has shown leadership by introducing the long-overdue reform of the Bank of England," she says. "He will have a window of opportunity post-Budget to continue the momentum."

The UK Government has already looked to New Zealand for inspiration in reforming monetary policy and it is clear that the Fiscal Responsibility Act has caught the eye of Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, and a regular adviser of Mr Brown.

Opposition to Mr Brown introducing such a reform is likely to come from inside the Labour Party. Some backbenchers have already expressed concern that the monetary policy reforms have limited the Government's room for manoeuvre.

Ms Richardson also emphasises that the Fiscal Responsibility Act does not prevent parties advocating higher public spending. "But crazy parties can no longer put forward crazy policies," she said.

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All at sea

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SBC WARBURG does not seem to be taking the new Government terribly seriously. A few weeks ago it invited a number of corporate guests to Henley Regatta, where everyone drinks too much champagne and no one watches any rowing. The day chosen was July 2. At that time, Budgets were traditionally held on Tuesdays. Now Warburg has fallen foul of the same trap that caught the annual Extel analysts' survey. Extel has decided to shorten the ceremony. But when guests queried the Warburgs invitation, they were told to come anyway.

"Finally, if you could sign the omnibus edition"

● *TORY workers at a trade show in London yesterday mobbed one particular stand and snapped up all the spare pencils in sight. Can't think why. The stand was promoting the Ritz Hotel.*

Taking Flight

THEY are a long-lived breed in fund management. Already this week Michael Hart has agreed to take over as director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies at 65, with no idea when he might be retiring. Now another doyen of the industry has a new job — at 68. Tom Griffin, co-founder of GT Management, is the first chairman of recently merged Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management. It is something of a sentimental return — his first job in the City was at Foreign & Colonial, but the company was in the throes of an office move. He spent his first six months on secondment to Hambros Bank.

Child's play

FIRST Thomas the Tank Engine, then Paddington, now Captain Pugwash. I ring Interbrand, the specialist consultancy, for tips on the next half-forgotten children's programme to be made this week's hot brand. Chris Cleaver, a director, says the programme must be remembered, through a patina of nostalgia, by the people who actually buy the spin-off products. "The parents see it and it seems familiar to them in a way that some of the other things invented more recently — Sonic the Hedgehog, Power Rangers — are not." He speculates on Camberwick Green, Trumpton, or characters out of the *Flintstones* stable from the US. I plump for Noggin the Nog — Vikings, dragons, trolls, how can it fail?

● *HARD to credit it, I know, but the boom in City legal work has created a shortage of lawyers. Fenners, a small father-and-son partnership started as a breakaway from Berwin Leighton two years ago, has had the executive headhunters searching three months for a young potential partner, competitive salary — which must mean £50,000 and upwards. No takers so far. "There's nobody out there," wails a colleague. "Because of the recession, people stopped hiring. There's nobody coming through at that level." Hope dawns for John and Robert Fenner, though. Forget the headhunters; next Tuesday, sensible chaps, they are advertising in* The Times.

Nash return

NEWS of Andy Nash, former marketing director at Taunton Cider and the man who took the rap, unfairly I always thought, for last year's disasters at Matthew Clark. Nash is joining as a non-executive director of Nicholson Graham & Jones, the City lawyer, and is apparently expected to bring his expertise in marketing *fizzy drinks to the legal profession*. Lawyers marketing themselves? Matthew Clark, oddly enough, is a client of Nicholson Graham & Jones, which suggest the next client meeting could be fun.

MARTIN WALLER

Andy Nash will bring skill in fizzy drinks to the law

Ionica ready to seek partners overseas

By Eric Reguly

IONICA, the wireless telephony company which currently operates in the East of England and the Midlands, said it intends to seek foreign partners in an effort to develop a significant overseas business.

The strategy was outlined yesterday, when the company announced the details of its £125 million flotation scheduled for next month. Nigel Playford, 41, the chief executive who founded Ionica in 1991, said: "It could be that the United Kingdom becomes a side show for us."

Ionica will probably bid for foreign operating licences and expects to receive an ever-increasing stream of overseas royalties on the wireless technology that it developed jointly with Nortel, the Canadian communications company. The system, which uses radio signals to deliver telephone signals to roof-mounted antennas, is currently being installed in Scoltand, Finland, the Czech Republic and Australia, among other countries.

The flotation is expected to value Ionica at between £558 million and £581 million, with an offering of about 35 million ordinary shares at a price between 370p and 390p. The offer price is due to be announced on July 18, with share dealings on the London Stock Exchange and America's Nasdaq market starting the same day. Mr Playford will own 6.6 per cent of Ionica, valued at about £38 million, after the flotation.

None of the existing shareholders, which include Yorkshire Electricity, Doughty Hanson and Morgan Stanley, is selling its equity. The £125 million is new money and will be used to help to complete Ionica's national roll-out by 2001.

Ionica is aiming for 7 per cent market penetration and expects to make net profits in four years. Relatively inexpensive installation costs and prices that it claims are 15 per cent less expensive than BT's are behind its growth strategy.

Since no digging is required, Ionica said it can connect customers for an average of £720. The cable industry, by comparison, has been spending three to four times that amount to connect its customers.

Ionica has so far raised £400 million, half in equity and half in debt, to fund its operations and expansion. The company is to raise a further £300 million in debt at the same time as the flotation; about £100 million of this amount is to be underwritten by Nortel.

In the past financial year, Ionica reported a loss of £43.9 million on turnover of £14.9 million. It had 22,000 customers at the end of May.

Tempus, page 30

Hogg to pull out of transport

By Adam Jones

HOGG ROBINSON is to sell its transport division, which had turnover of £121 million last year, to concentrate on business travel and financial services.

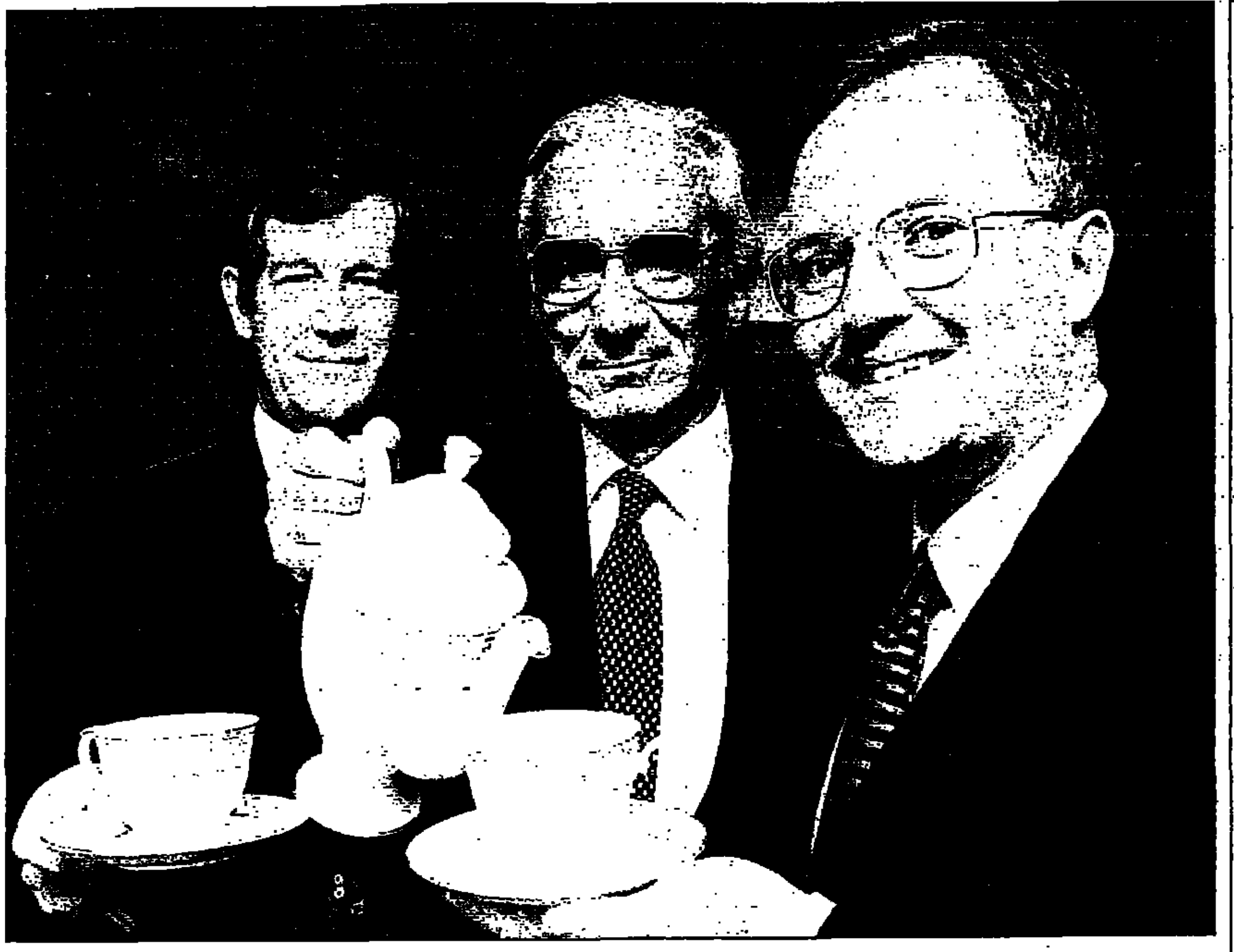
The company yesterday said pre-tax profit was £28.1 million (£26.3 million) for the year to March 31. The figure does not include exceptional costs of £3.5 million relating to the sale of Weys, its loss-making Dutch logistics business.

Hogg Robinson shocked the market with a profit warning in January.

David Radcliffe, formerly managing director of the business travel division, has been appointed chief executive.

A dividend of 6.1p (5.45p) is to be paid on August 8, making a total of 9.8p (8.75p) for the year.

ASHLEY COOMBES



Rob Yates, left, chief executive of John Tams Group, Gerald Tams, chairman, and Mark Taylor, finance director, celebrate a return to profit by the manufacturer of ceramic household products. John Tams made pre-tax profits of £1.9 million for the year to March 31, up from a loss of £200,000 in the previous 12 months. Turnover fell to £27.3 million, from £28.9 million, but operating profits rose to £2.12 million, from an adjusted £1.39 million, reflecting benefits of cost-cutting and increased focus on higher-margin products. A 2.41p final dividend makes 4.01p (same).

Lambert's link-up cost spelt out

ABOUT half of the £11 million cost of the merger between the insurance brokers Lowndes Lambert and Fenchurch Group has gone on staff redundancies and incidental expenses (Marianne Curphey writes).

The new company, Lambert Fenchurch, announced pre-tax profit of £14.6 million before exceptional items for the year to March, compared with £13.9 million for Lowndes Lambert only in 1996. The latest figure included a £300,000 contribution from Fenchurch for the first six weeks of the merger.

Other costs relating to the merger included a writedown for unoccupied property and obsolete computer systems after the link-up in February.

Earnings per share were down slightly to 14.8p (15.6p) and the final dividend is maintained at 5.5p a share, making 8.4p again for the year.

Manders issues profits warning

By Oliver August

MANDERS, the chemicals company, issued a profits warning yesterday in the wake of a margin squeeze caused by the rising pound. It said "pre-tax profit for 1997 will be significantly below market expectations". Analysts had forecast profits of about £8 million.

The company claimed to be hit particularly hard by sterling's strength because 75 per cent of its output is sold overseas. The purchase of raw materials abroad added to the currency problems.

In a trading statement, the company said that although sales volume in the first five months improved through organic growth, continued pressure on selling prices together with higher material prices, had eroded margins.

Manders said that the strong pound has also had a significant effect on the translated value of profits of overseas subsidiaries. The warning surprised the City as it came only three months after the annual results in March. The company said then that "the impact [of sterling] on our business would be limited and the effects of translating our results into sterling not too marked".

The share price did not move from 130p yesterday. Analysts had already discounted the probability of currency problems, at which the company had hinted in March. The share price has fallen by more than 50 per cent over the past year.

The company said: "Our balance sheet remains strong and while first-half profits will be disappointing compared with last year, competitive pressures on prices are weakening, and we are confident that profitability will be improved in the second half."

Japanese market rises on survey

THE Japanese stock market surged overnight after the Bank of Japan's quarterly Tankan survey revealed much stronger business sentiment than previously suspected (George Sivell writes).

Japanese analysts said the survey result was ideal, suggesting that the tone of the economy was strong but not enough to justify an early rise in the official discount rate. However, they remained wary of the possibility of a rate rise from the current 0.5 per cent by the autumn.

The Nikkei average rose 337.34 points to close at 20,679.27. The dollar dipped more than one yen from late Tuesday's New York levels to Y113.38. Japanese government bond and euroyen futures fell.

The survey measures the balance of companies that see conditions as favourable over those that do not. The June index was plus seven, up from plus two in March.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Opec heavyweights press for output cut

SAUDI ARABIA and Iran, the heavyweight members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have increased pressure on Venezuela, the cartel's biggest quota violator, to cut excess production and help to ratchet up the price of oil. Delegates at the quota-setting Opec meeting, however, doubted that the move would have much impact. Opec was ready to open Vienna talks to assign production quotas for the six months from July 1.

Delegates forecast that a Saudi-backed majority would favour the expedient of freezing current quotas under the ceiling of 25 million barrels a day until the year's end. However, the Saudis, working with Iran, were trying to deal with quota violations by some members, led by Venezuela, that have lifted actual Opec output two million barrels above the target.

Food exports plea

BRITAIN could double the value of its food and drink exports by 2005 to more than £20 billion, a new report says. Food companies should focus on growing markets in Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe, according to the Food From Britain export marketing consultancy. They should also play on their ability to innovate by concentrating on convenience and value-added goods. An increasingly saturated home market will mean limited growth opportunities in the next few years.

Vocalis loss deepens

VOCALIS, the speech technology and call processing group, lost £1.9 million before tax in the year to March 31, a deterioration from the £1.2 million loss in the previous year. Losses per share accelerated from 4.85p to 6.1p. The group raised £4.4 million in a flotation last July and at the year end had £2.9 million in cash or on deposit. It said: "We have moved well towards the goals established before the public issue. The group now has all of the components necessary for success."

Penna at the double

PENNA, the human resource services group, reported pre-tax profits up to £2.27 million (£1.06 million) in the year to March 31, on £16.7 million sales (£14.7 million). Earnings per share rose from 10.12p to 20.26p. The total dividend is maintained at 2p. Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman, said: "Current operating conditions show good demand for all the services we provide. We hope to continue the steady growth we have enjoyed these past two and a half years."

GEI leaps to £5.5m

GEI INTERNATIONAL, the processing and packaging machinery group, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.5 million, from £1.8 million, in the year to March 31. Turnover from continuing operations fell to £85 million, from £91 million. The company has completed its withdrawal from steel manufacturing. The total dividend is unchanged at 4.5p a share, with a 3p final. Earnings rose to 9.3p a share, from 4.7p. The shares rose 1p, to 99p.

Chesterfield acquisition

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES has made its first acquisition in retail warehousing, paying £11.1 million for the 96,000 sq ft Admiral Retail Park in Eastbourne, East Sussex. Tenants at the development, which is due for completion in September, will be Homebase, ScottishPower, Pet City, Wickes, Tempo and McDonalds. The vendor is Spen Hill Properties. Chesterfield will pay an initial consideration of £8.8 million, with the balance due on completion of the development.

ACCOUNTANCY

End of the line for tax credit?

David Cruickshank cautions the Chancellor of the Exchequer against rushing into a decision

David Cruickshank would like wider discussion

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to raise more money in next week's Budget. He has also said the present system encourages companies to pay excessive dividends rather than retain profits to invest in the business. That must mean the tax credit is at risk.

Abolishing the tax credit would be easy, but the ramifications would be widespread. Some suggest that Mr Brown will reduce it by 5 per cent now, with a view to phasing it out over a period. But that does not conjure away the problems: it merely eases the adjustment to them. Here are some of the consequences of getting rid of the credit.

☐ **Charities:** Many charities invest a large part of their capital in equities. The 20 per cent reduction in dividend yield would force them to curtail activities.

☐ **Pension funds:** By far the majority of occupational pension funding is done under "final-salary" schemes. If the tax credit is abolished, the 20 per cent reduction in dividend yield will produce a double whammy since employers will have to make good both the *future* pension shortfall caused by lower dividend income and the reduction in capital value built up to meet pensions that have *already* accrued. This value must be actuarially calculated by reference to the (now reduced) income the fund can generate.

This, in turn, will reduce the corporation tax yield, or it may precipitate a move from final-salary schemes to "money-purchase" schemes. As with personal pensions and additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) the loss of dividend yield would reduce members' pensions.

☐ **Debt/equity bias:** Abolishing the tax credit will add to the bias against equity in favour of debt finance. If interest and dividend rates were equal, the net return on loan finance would be about 20 per cent greater than that on equity finance. Risk-free lending would be favoured at the expense of risk-bearing equity finance.

☐ **Would ACT be kept?** The tax credit goes hand in hand with advance corporation tax, but even if the Chancellor abolishes the former I would expect him to keep the latter.

A short-term reason for continuing to make companies pay part of their corporation tax in advance when they pay dividends is to keep up the cashflow to the Exchequer. Without any ACT, even if it is replaced by a dividend withholding tax, there will be a shortfall of revenue in the first year. Only in the second year will revenue receipts go up, when the full amount of the first year's corporation tax is received without any ACT to offset it.

☐ **International groups:** A longer-term reason for keeping ACT is to do with international groups. Some groups that have high overseas earnings do not pay much corporation tax. The ACT they pay on their dividends is not so much a prepayment as the *only* payment of corporation tax. The Exchequer would lose permanently from such groups if ACT were abolished.

These groups often try to maximise their UK-source profits at the expense of foreign-source profits. For instance, they may finance their foreign subsidiaries mainly by debt rather than equity: this gives them "clean" interest in the UK rather than dividends that are "sullied" by a credit for foreign tax. They do this not out of a sense of patriotism, but to bear enough UK tax to pay dividends without increasing their tax liability. They will no longer have the incentive to plan the UK sourcing of profits if ACT is abolished.

☐ **Tax credit and basic rate:** If, initially, the Chancellor does no more than reduce the tax credit by 5 per cent, he will have to solve a Chinese puzzle. If the basic rate of tax stays at 23 per cent, will he collect the missing 8 per cent from basic rate taxpayers? Eight per cent is a large margin, but it would be cumbersome to collect it from shareholders who typically have small portfolios of shares in utilities and demutualised building societies. Many more people would have to submit self-assessment tax returns.

☐ **Conclusion:** To reduce the credit by 5 per cent would have considerable consequences. If the Chancellor is contemplating further cuts I hope he will put forward his ideas for the widest possible discussion.

Mistaking the consequences could create considerable financial turmoil and undo the Government's aim to create a stable business environment and engender long-term confidence.

The author is head of London tax, Deloitte & Touche

Why Mitchell should carry on regardless

ROBERT BRUCE

IT MAY be time to knock the Austin Mitchell phenomenon on the head. For years, the garrulous MP for Great Grimsby has been the populist frontman for attacking the accountancy profession. First, he simply enraged the profession. Then they grew to like him. "If we didn't have Austin," senior people in the large firms and at the institutes say, "we would have to invent him."

The view was that Mitchell's stream of articles and speeches, peppered as they were with the old Labour jargon in which business was run exclusively by "toffs" and "chaps", was good for the profession. All the cardboard cut-out clichés reminded accountants of their responsibilities. But they also knew that it was delivered in such a delightfully old-fashioned knockabout style that they had little to fear.

They also knew the background. Professor Prem Sikka, a man they tended to view as an eccentrically obsessive critic, was the provider of enormous sheaves of Mitchell's rhetoric. But accountants who met Mitchell when Sikka was not at his elbow knew that, by and large, the genial MP was not so wildly at odds with their views as the ranting articles might have suggested. And we know from a recent article written by Mitchell's wife that the family view of Sikka is not necessarily that he is a man with his finger fully on the political pulse.

Mitchell has made his mark. Certainly the current proposals for the independent oversight board planned by the profession and much of the emphasis on a level playing field in the debate over limited liability partnerships would not have come about if he had not been such a persistent critic.

But now we seem to have reached the point where the Mitchell performances have less and less contact with what is going on in the profession. The profession has changed. The Government has changed. The only thing that hasn't is Mitchell's material. His script remains the same.

This became obvious in the adjournment debate on the regulation of auditors that he initiated last week in the House of Commons. He happily ignored his party's manifesto pledge, garbled though it was, to review the law on joint and several liability and provide accountants "with adequate protection". Instead he rattled off an attack on the idea of limited liability partnerships. He praised the American authorities for their regulatory zeal, yet ignored the fact that they seem perfectly comfortable with such partnerships. If such measures were introduced here it "would ensure that all the partners in a practice, who are currently liable down to their last Jaguar and their last yacht, could evade their liabilities", he said.

He had a go at "the dubious and dodgy tactics used by the big accountancy firms" in this matter. He had a rant about the "tin-pot jurisdiction in Jersey" that could allow such partnership structures. On the subject of regulation he ignored the existence of the profession's proposals for an independent oversight board. He hardened his usual "chaps regulating chaps" gibe to "the mafia regulates the mafia".

All this was standard stuff. But what was interesting was the response from Ian McCartney, Department of Trade and Industry Minister responsible for the profession. He emphasised that "our fundamental responsibilty is to come to a view on how to strike a fair overall balance in the public interest". He thanked Mitchell for his "animated, enthusiastic and provocative presentation".

But he took none of Mitchell's points on board. He pointed out that the DTI had itself commissioned an independent academic to look into the profession's record on regulation in 1994 and that his conclusion was that "self-regulation is being operated conscientiously". He pointed out that Mitchell had got some of his figures wrong.

The impression he gave was that the Government would stick to its manifesto pledges and that fairness would be its watchword. In other words, the Mitchell era of slapstick and innuendo, however well meant, is over.

Yet it will be a sad day for the profession if his colourful scatter-gun approach is lost. This week we learnt that this year, for the first time in a decade, accountancy firms are refusing to release any voluntary figures on their financial performance. *Accountancy*, the journal of the English ICA, traditionally collates the figures and calculates a Top 50. But this year the majority of the senior firms are refusing to provide figures at all. It seems at best odd, and at worse perverse, that the firms, which all know that disclosure is the quid pro quo for any change in partnership legislation, should refuse to make any figures, however rough and ready, available.

Forget about retirement Austin. Pick up your pen once more.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Happiness is higher pay

FINANCE directors are happy souls. Or so the latest survey says. Hays Accountancy Personnel surveyed 450 finance directors and found that two thirds of them felt the future looked good or very good. That might not be surprising considering the survey's other findings. The finance directors report that workload per employee has increased 60 per cent in the manufacturing sector and 61 per cent in services while they have paid them less. Fifty-seven per cent of finance directors reported that they had doled out pay rises of between 1 per cent and 3.4 per cent. Meanwhile, they have paid themselves more. Sixty per cent of finance directors reported that management pay had gone up more than 4.5 per cent, which probably explains the happiness.

Fuller figures

IN SPITE of the continuing reluctance of accountancy firms to release figures Saffery Champness is keen to swim against the tide. Not only has it just announced a 10 per cent increase in fee income to £18.6 million for its 1996-97 year but it has also revealed that it has been awarded nationwide accreditation by Investors in People. It is only the second accountancy firm to have achieved such an award.

Sporting lives

GRAHAM WARD, deputy chairman of Price Waterhouse's world energy group and a persistent contender for the presidential ladder at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, has always had a sporting reputation. He was famously the university's heavyweight boxing champion when he was at Oxford. But now his prowess is rubbing off on others. His secretary at Price Waterhouse, Jo Hogan, is All England county champion at bar billiards.

ROBERT BRUCE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ec heavyweights ss for output cut

d exports plea

calls loss deepens

ma at the double

leaps to £5.5m

esterfield acquisition

itchell should n regardless

هدايا من الاصل

Shares close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the *previous* day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

MEDIA

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	192	Br Biotech	232	+ 1		
1115	865	Cantab Pharms	850			
673	247	Celltech	277	+ 3		..
465	240	Chiroscience	242			
253	177	Cortecs	195	- 3		
1297	665	Glaxo Wellc	1277	+ 25	3.2	26.3
245	149	ML Laboratories	159	-		29.4
330	252	Medeva	279	1	2.2	
403	229	Peptide Thera	312	- 1		
95	24	Proteus Intl	49		...	
637	317	Scotia	315	- 2		
346	216	Shire Pharms	229			
90	64	SkyePharma	97	- 4		
1107	769	SmithKline	1076	- 27	1.9	26.9
392	298	Therap Anti Inc	347	3		
707	499	Vanguard	500			
435	210	Xenova	335	1		
2030	1585	Zeneca	1930	- 42	2.3	27.4

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		7.00	6.52
101	100	Treas 6¾% 1997	100		6.72	6.48
108	102	Exch 15% 1997	102	..	14.60	6.62
103	101	Exch 9¾% 1998	101		9.59	6.71
101	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	+	7.23	6.80
110	106	Treas 14% 1998-01	106		13.19	6.87
114	110	Treas 15½% 1998	110		14.08	6.94
109	106	Exch 12% 1998	108	+	11.26	6.96
105	103	Treas 9½% 1999	103	+	9.17	7.00
111	108	Exch 12¼% 1999	108	+	11.30	7.02
109	106	Treas 10½% 1999	106	+	9.90	6.97
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	98	+	6.11	7.00
118	106	Conv 10¼% 1999	106	+	9.59	7.06
106	104	Conv 9% 2000	104	-	8.60	7.06
104	102	Treas 8% 2000	102	+	7.78	7.06
119	115	Treas 13% 2000	115	+	11.22	7.10
112	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	109	+	9.16	7.11
101	98	Treas 7% 2001	99	+	7.02	7.08

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	109	Treas 9¾% 2002	111	+	8.77	7.14
105	102	Treas 8% 2003	104	+	7.67	7.09
116	111	Treas 10% 2003	114	+	8.77	7.15
116	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112	+	10.09	7.15
87	82	Fund 3½% 1999-04	86	+	4.05	5.89
114	109	Conv 9½% 2004	113	+	8.37	7.10
99	94	Treas 6¾% 2004	98	+	6.88	7.06
109	104	Treas 8½% 2005	108	+	7.82	7.10
122	110	Conv 9½% 2005	114	+	8.33	7.11
129	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126	+	9.84	7.15
103	99	Treas 7½% 2006	102	-	7.30	7.10
107	99	Treas 7¾% 2006	104	+	7.44	7.13
104	100	Treas 8% 2002-06	103	+	7.75	7.27
123	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	+	9.74	7.17
111	105	Treas 8½% 2007	109	+	7.75	7.13
102	96	Treas 7¼% 2007	101	+	7.16	7.08
115	108	Treas 9% 2008	114	+	7.88	7.13
107	101	Treas 8% 2009	106	-	7.49	7.15

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
96	86	Treas 6¼% 2010	92	+	6.79	7.17
117	109	Conv 9% 2011	116	+	7.76	7.17
118	109	Treas 9% 2012	116	+	7.72	7.18
87	80	Treas 5½% 2008-12	86	+	6.34	6.92
109	100	Treas 8% 2013	107	+	7.42	7.17
106	98	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	105	+	7.37	7.19
109	101	Treas 8% 2015	108	+	7.36	7.14
117	103	Treas 8¾% 2017	116	+	7.51	7.18
111	101	Tr 8% 2021	109	+	7.27	7.12

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
49	43	War Ln 3½%	48	+	7.19	
34	30	Treas 2½%	34	+	7.35	
54	48	Consols 4%	54	+	7.40	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	113	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114	+	..	2.90
187	184	Treas IL 2½% 2001	186	+	2.97	3.59
184	180	Treas IL 2½% 2003	182	+	3.13	3.61
120	117	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	118	+	3.17	3.60
197	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	192	+	3.28	3.61
175	170	Treas IL 2½% 2009	173	+	3.34	3.61
183	176	Treas IL 2½% 2011	179	+	3.38	3.61
150	145	Treas IL 2½% 2013	147	+	3.42	3.62
161	153	Treas IL 2½% 2016	157	+	3.43	3.62
154	147	Treas IL 2½% 2020	151	+	3.49	3.65
128	122	Treas IL 2½% 2024	125	+	3.49	3.64
126	119	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	123	+	3.49	3.63

Source: FT Information

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	768.70	817.80		2.32
General Inc	636.80	677.50	..	2.32
UK Growth Acc	533.00	567.10		2.27
UK Growth Inc	340.80	362.60		2.27
Higher Inc Acc	930.40	989.80	.	3.88
Higher Inc Inc	488.00	519.20	.	3.88
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	220.20	232.50		5.48
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.01	99.29		5.49
Nth America	406.80	431.80		.
Europe	426.00	453.20	...	0.05
Brit Excell	104.60	111.30		2.45
Brit Fndmtls Acc	129.60	137.90	.	4.58
Brit Fndmtls Inc	85.45	90.91	.	4.59
Global Opps	115.20	122.60		
Balanced Acc	70.33	74.82	.	2.12
Balanced Inc	65.00	69.15		2.12
Japan Acc	44.19	47.02		
Pac Basin Acc	411.50	437.80	.	0.70
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	134.40	142.78†	-0.60	6.43
High Inc Equity	203.80	218.00	+2.40	4.45
Worldwide Bond	268.00	284.30†	+2.50	3.91
American Growth	467.80	499.40	+11.70	0.33
Asian Pacific	341.40	365.10	+3.60	0.38
Assets & Earnings	321.60	344.00†	+3.00	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	229.50	245.50	+5.30	0.81
Extra Inc	43.50	46.28†	+0.13	8.49
General	296.30	315.30	+2.50	2.92
Global Opps	81.07	86.24	+1.45	0.46
Japan	106.30	113.70	+2.70	
Managed Inc	50.67	53.90†	+0.38	4.17
Mastertrust	187.50	200.50	-2.40	1.11
US Emerging Cos	189.80	203.00	+2.60	
Special	93.94	99.30†	+0.27	2.06
International	151.20	160.80	+2.60	0.54
Dividend & Growth	75.90	80.64	+0.78	4.17
Global Gwth & Sec	76.85	82.03		2.48
Latin America	93.99	99.99	+1.96	0.39
Capital Reserve	149.30	149.40	+0.10	4.68
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0141 275 8500				
A&P UK Growth	102.60	109.10	+1.00	2.07
Equity Income	144.50	153.70	+1.40	3.93
Extra Income	280.10	297.90	+2.10	6.08
Smaller Cos	105.90	112.50	+0.10	1.57
International	128.20	136.30	+2.00	1.32
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2454.00	2560.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	71.18	73.97	+1.06	
Emerging Mkts	80.28	83.61	+0.19	0.17
European	167.96	175.67	+2.04	
Extra Income #	52.76	55.52†	+0.31	5.52
Far East Emg Ecn	130.27	136.76	-0.58	0.60
Fixed Interest #	26.41	27.55†	-0.03	8.52
Fund Inv Tst #	169.45	177.80	+0.29	8.72
Japan	184.27	191.45	+3.60	
Latin American	78.69	82.58	+1.60	1.70
Pacific	83.43	87.58	-0.56	0.31
Property Share	82.47	86.55	+0.17	1.99
UK Emerging Cos	69.15	74.73	+0.30	1.52
UK Growth	62.17	65.56	+1.40	1.85
Aber World Port #	88.42	93.11†	+0.77	2.56
Ethical	93.36	86.64†	+0.56	1.16
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.22	50.22†	+0.09	7.01
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Resdtl Property #	101.90	108.40		5.24
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	99.39	105.56	+0.50	2.01
Income Builder Inc	86.84	92.38†	+0.65	3.92
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 574				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	322.70	344.90	+2.20	2.92
Capital	563.00	601.80	+3.60	1.04
Balanced	936.00	1000.00†	+6.40	2.44
Accumulator	1821.00	1946.00	+16.00	1.60
Income Trusts				
American Income	75.09	80.02†	+0.86	2.03
High Income	523.50	559.50	+4.30	3.81
Equity Income	296.60	317.00	+2.80	3.50
High Yield	314.60	336.30	+2.40	3.76
Govt Securities	35.65	37.64†	+0.20	5.51
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	252.20	268.40	+2.40	0.04
European Growth	67.71	72.21†	+0.96	0.05
International	211.10	225.40†	+3.30	0.10
Japan	195.10	208.50†	+4.20	
Pacific	428.60	458.10†	-6.20	
Secs of America	686.40	730.10†	+7.60	0.11
Wrlde Asset Val	60.91	65.11†	+0.94	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	725.20	775.20†	+7.00	1.76
Conv & Gilt	54.70	58.47†	+0.03	3.62
Smaller Cos	202.80	216.70	+0.10	1.05
2nd Smaller Cos	192.00	205.20	+0.10	0.76
Recovery	184.50	197.30	+1.30	1.22
Met Min & Com	150.30	160.60	-0.60	0.19
Oseas Earnings	480.00	513.10	+3.30	0.95
Technology	249.40	266.40†	+3.90	
UK Special Sits	643.40	687.70	-4.20	1.56
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	134.30	139.50		
Foundtn Fund Pens	79.35	82.44		
For BG-Thornhill see Thornhill				
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	401.00	426.60	+5.40	
Bond	122.30	129.70	+0.80	6.44
Brit Smlr Cos	112.30	119.50	+0.10	1.85
Cmmr & Gen #	66.21	70.44†	+0.04	5.46
Europe	348.10	389.30	-5.00	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	130.70	139.00	+1.80	0.31
Income Gwth	389.60	414.50†	+0.30	4.20
Japan	332.30	352.90	+7.60	
Latin American	115.70	123.10†	+1.80	0.51
Pacific	125.30	133.30	+1.60	0.50
UK Smllr Cos	58.75	62.50	+0.17	1.28
Japan Fd	637.80	666.60	+9.80	
Mngd Fd	229.30	242.50	+1.90	2.55
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	431.30	456.20		0.77
Capital Gwth	149.70	157.30		2.65
Wwide Opps	252.90	267.50		0.82
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	476.80	507.30	+5.50	1.96
European Ed Inc	100.10	103.70	+0.30	5.66
Exempt	94.37	100.40	+1.17	2.49
500	499.20	536.80	+1.00	2.14
General	365.00	388.30	+4.10	2.07
Property	258.40	277.20†		5.45
Trustee	258.00	274.40†	+3.10	2.03
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.10	101.10		5.80
Distribution #	118.70	119.30†	-0.60	5.57
Extra Income #	154.60	164.90	+1.50	4.45
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.58	62.45†	-0.16	7.51
Income #	656.90	700.70	+5.90	4.40
Income Builder #	75.30	80.19	+0.66	5.02
Intl Income	80.61	85.75†	-1.37	1.35
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	161.60	171.90	+2.00	1.94
FTSE 100	113.10	125.30†	+1.70	2.36
Leisure	190.30	192.50	+0.60	1.61
Recovery	557.60	594.70	+6.50	2.10
Smllr Cos Inc	59.02	62.96	0.04	2.31
Special Sits	[illegible]	490.90	+5.80	1.95
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	213.90	226.30†	+5.80	0.20
F East Gwth Acc	321.50	342.00	+4.70	0.32
Far East Gwth	190.30	202.60†	+2.90	0.32
Euro Gwth Inc	225.60	238.90	+5.10	0.55
-do- Accum	245.30	259.70	+5.50	0.55
Japan	132.60	142.05	+3.20	
-do- Accum	136.70	145.60	-3.20	
Japan Spec Sit	63.20	67.45	+1.99	
Worldwide	222.90	236.50	+4.30	0.67
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
[illegible]	108.40	115.60	-4.00	
[illegible]	152.50	163.00	-1.10	
Eastern	303.70	323.30	-7.90	0.30
Equity Income #	112.00	119.50	-1.10	4.70
European Growth	438.70	462.90	+5.50	0.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	446.40†	-3.40	0.50
German Growth	108.30	115.70	-1.70	0.50
Global Bond	71.66	75.00	-0.10	6.20
Global Growth	164.20	174.20	-3.60	0.40
Japan Growth	190.10	196.70	-3.50	
Japan Technlgy	102.20	109.20	-1.10	
[illegible]	52.41	52.00		0.69
Portfolio	102.90	103.80	-1.70	2.90
-do- Accum	[illegible]	230.70	-3.70	2.00
UK Growth	119.80	126.70†	-1.40	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	107.90	111.70		1.90
Select Managers	94.51	101.40	+0.40	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
[illegible]	104.70	111.40		
[illegible]	70.53	75.03		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD 0141 [illegible]				
Balanced Growth	160.57	172.51	+4.05	1.32
-do- Accum	194.07	203.05	+4.74	1.32
Smaller Cos	171.54	179.73†	+0.44	0.37
[illegible] #	62.25	65.89	-0.60	3.92
American Gth Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.23	
[illegible]	195.07	200.19	+4.34	
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	+4.53	
Mngd Ptflio Inc	60.34	62.85	-0.81	1.25
-do- Accum	62.94	65.56	-0.85	1.25
[illegible]	190.51	196.46	+3.05	
Pacific Gth	101.64	102.17	+1.72	
UK General #	111.45	116.08†	+1.25	2.85
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	127.94	+1.36	2.75
Japan	54.39	57.29	+1.48	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	103.54	107.29†	-0.32	7.84
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
[illegible]	64.70	65.52	+0.16	6.41
C&G UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0151 837 5060				
Growth	197.50	207.90†	-1.30	1.52
UK Growth	241.70	254.50	+3.00	2.07
UK Income	164.70	172.60	-1.70	4.13
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 [illegible]				
Can Gen Dist	260.70	275.70	-3.70	1.44
-do- Income Dist	140.00	148.30	-0.90	[illegible]
-do- Accum	465.70	493.60	-3.20	2.37
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.14	44.25	+0.15	6.14
Growth Units	290.70	[illegible]	+3.00	1.68
Bond	[illegible]	191.73	+0.40	6.50
Intl Growth	259.60	275.60	+4.70	0.17
North American	304.50	323.70	-6.70	0.08
Far East	310.00	328.90†	-3.90	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	239.00	256.60†	-0.10	[illegible]
European	111.00	117.60†	-1.00	0.42
Japanese Growth	42.81	45.75	-0.95	
High Income	136.42	143.60	-1.62	3.56
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
[illegible]	251.70	266.90	-4.80	
[illegible]	114.30	121.70	+1.90	0.32
[illegible]	109.00	116.70	-0.10	1.55
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1.70	1.91
Income & Growth #	[illegible]	[illegible]	-4.70	3.53
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.53
[illegible]	63.53	67.64	-1.31	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+10.00	1.62
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	-13.00	1.62
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.90	1.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	1709.00†	[illegible]	4.01
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.73	2.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	166.90	-1.92	5.42
[illegible]	52.67	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	66.51†	-1.62	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.74	175.92†	+0.39	0.75
UK Equity	106.01	113.18	+0.90	2.93
UK Equity & Bd	61.98	65.68	+0.29	5.43
UK Smlr Cos	52.20	55.83	-0.05	1.68
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	849.50	962.34	.	4.01
Inv Fd Acc	860.42	873.42	. .	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	158.14	158.78		9.01
Fxd Int Sec Acc	161.75	162.39		
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	861.05	874.07	..	3.96
Investment Acc	4061.18	4122.56	..	
Fixed Int Inc	131.16	137.68		8.81
Fixed Int Acc	249.49	250.49		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.30	93.07	-0.73	5.38
Beck Bio-Tech	40.73	44.11†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	204.10	214.32†		0.45
City Fin Assets	82.61	88.75		1.91
City Fin Intl	95.11	99.87	-0.07	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	333.00	354.26	.	2.24
Buckles Wrld Grth	151.12	160.19	+0.75	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	62.63	65.77		3.25
Shaw Utilities	67.71	69.22†	+0.34	5.03
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	63.52	67.40	+1.03	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	91.35	97.18	+1.82	...
Dragon Growth	74.78	79.95	+1.20	0.26
Equity High Inc	102.21	108.15†	+1.07	3.53
-do- Accum	151.40	160.21	+1.58	3.53
Extra Income Inc	27.75	29.22	+0.07	6.76
Extra Income Acc	31.42	33.09	+0.08	6.76
European Gwth	77.91	82.44	+1.32	0.09
Evergreen	33.28	35.50	+0.34	
General Equity	120.14	126.80	+1.30	2.58
Japan Growth	45.68	48.61	+1.19	
Pedigree Gwth	71.05	75.18	+0.71	2.04
Pref Sm Cos Inc	39.14	41.42	+0.11	1.37
-do- Accum	41.92	44.36	+0.12	1.37
Retirement Inc #	30.93	32.90	+0.24	5.60
Special Sits	51.35	56.21	+0.19	2.70
UK & Overseas	69.29	73.32	+1.06	0.51
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 898 000				
Balanced	77.00	80.20	+0.61	3.85
Capital	92.55	96.40	+0.67	2.28
High Income	54.10	56.35†	+0.13	6.57
Top 50	65.35	68.07	+0.76	2.37
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	205.64	214.13	+1.09	4.51
Long Gilt	46.60	48.51	+0.24	5.78
Monthly Inc Plus	53.38	55.61	+0.21	8.06
Preference Share	50.71	52.83	+0.02	7.38
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	152.89	159.28	+0.68	5.62
Managed Fund	83.48	86.97	+0.79	2.80
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.02	54.19	+0.08	1.57
-do- Accum	62.21	64.81	+0.12	1.57
UK & General	109.95	114.54	+1.17	2.45
-do- Accum	145.76	151.85	+1.56	2.45
UK Growth	218.90	228.04	+2.17	1.72
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	254.54	265.17	+3.92	0.51
Far Eastern Gth	139.17	144.98	+2.15	0.02
Global Bond	73.32	76.38	+0.29	6.73
Japan Growth	111.71	116.38	+2.76	.
North Amer Gth	284.13	296.00	+5.27	
Overseas Growth	87.44	91.09	+0.88	0.25
Worldwide Growth	81.48	84.88	+1.29	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.42	92.42	+0.01	5.70
Homemaker Fund	100.32	106.73	+0.93	2.02
Quilter Fund	170.28	181.15	+1.62	1.99
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	38.03	40.60		3.89
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	192.50	204.80	+0.30	1.62
Income	78.23	83.22	+0.39	4.24
European	89.40	95.11	+1.18	0.21
Recovery	180.80	192.30	-2.40	2.47
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1131.90	1150.00		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	113.90	121.10	+0.40	1.12
Income #	305.10	324.50	+2.70	4.24
-do- Accum #	829.80	882.70	+7.20	4.34
Smaller Cos	226.00	240.40†	-0.20	0.99
-do- Accum	282.30	300.30	-0.30	0.99
Gilt Portfolio	107.70	114.50	+0.70	1.25
High Inc Port #	90.16	95.91	+0.74	4.35
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 470 1834				
Global Sm Cos	1809.80	1831.30		
UK Small Cos	2253.20	2345.20		2.93
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	239.20	246.60†		3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	192.50	204.70†	+1.80	1.58
UK High Inc Inc	201.90	214.70†	+2.40	3.51
-do- Accum	281.40	299.30†	+3.30	3.51
UK Pref & F I Inc	61.05	64.81†	+0.37	5.71
Envronmtl Opps	113.10	120.30	+1.10	1.61
UK Smlr Cos #	72.04	78.63	-0.11	0.88
Extra Income Inc	52.62	55.95	+0.15	6.09
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	23.33	24.79†	+0.08	5.65
Enterprise	117.50	124.60†	+0.50	2.01
Equity Income #	154.70	164.40†	+1.20	3.89
European	73.73	78.05	+0.92	
Financial	66.72	70.89	+0.70	1.41
Growth & Inc #	316.40	336.20	+1.80	2.60
High Dist #	195.40	207.60†	+1.30	4.09
International	464.90	494.00	+4.70	0.20
Int Cap Inc	118.60	126.90	+1.10	2.13
Latin American	41.24	43.82	+0.75	
Pacific	87.31	92.77	+0.74	
Pref High Inc	23.67	25.15	-0.07	7.16
Tokyo	211.10	223.20	+4.00	
UK Smaller Cos	249.40	265.00†	+0.10	1.13
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Japan Sm Cos	363.10	384.70	+5.80	
Nth Amer	500.20	529.40	+9.40	0.55
UK Inc & Grth	281.80	300.50	+1.70	2.47
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Digs	125.97	134.73	-2.39	0.96
Growth Acc	306.90	326.94	+7.01	0.59
Income	615.42	655.72	+2.47	6.06
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	251.60	267.70		1.04
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	105.61	114.33†	+1.95	1.47
Ethical Tst	52.64	55.41	+0.41	0.74
Far Eastern	318.52	335.29	+3.87	1.49
High Income	154.96	163.12	+0.79	4.56
UK Index Trckng	60.48	63.66	+0.63	2.96
Intl Growth	155.28	163.45	+1.48	1.07
North American	173.89	183.83	+2.15	1.70
Pelican	163.11	171.69	-1.42	2.80
Smaller Cos	70.14	73.83†	+0.06	2.56
Special Sits	95.49	100.52	-0.04	2.83
Tst of Inv Tsts	236.47	248.92	-0.90	1.31
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	131.45	139.25	+0.77	
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.01	60.49	+0.70	0.43
High Income #	40.67	43.12	+0.07	11.02
[illegible]	[illegible]	52.62	+0.29	
Zero Preference	47.09	49.87†		0.02
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	107.40	114.20	+1.20	[illegible]
United Charities	334.70	356.00	+2.10	[illegible]
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.30
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	25.55	27.52	+0.15	5.21
[illegible] Inc	18.42	19.70†	-0.12	5.72
Income Funds				
High Income	29.76	30.19†	+0.18	5.50
Income Plus	149.30	159.40†	+1.50	[illegible]
European Income	59.29	62.09	-0.71	[illegible]
UK Cos Grth	35.46	37.71†	+0.29	[illegible]
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	55.75	58.34	-0.73	
American	372.10	396.10	-5.25	
Amer Spec Sits	208.40	222.10	-2.60	
Japan Smaller Cos	27.38	29.11	-0.42	
European	273.50	291.90	+3.80	0.45
European Opps	101.00	107.49	+1.30	0.53
Global [illegible]	37.04	39.33	+0.67	0.42
UK Growth	139.50	147.30†	+1.30	1.32
Growth & Inc	203.20	214.10†	+1.70	2.23
Intl PEP	55.63	59.12†	+0.76	0.93
Japan Spec Sits	81.50	85.34	-2.26	
Japan	192.20	199.20	+4.70	
Managed Intl	415.20	440.70	-7.60	0.61
Moneybuilder	72.80	77.41	+0.60	
Recovery	66.29	70.45†	+0.21	1.94
South E Asia	198.10	211.20	+1.40	0.51
Special Sits	803.30	854.20†	+3.10	0.53
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	119.72	119.72	-0.01	5.90
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	166.50	[illegible]	-0.10	1.55
[illegible] #	102.90	103.70†	-0.40	[illegible]
[illegible]	185.00	[illegible]	-2.60	0.09
General Opps	156.20	[illegible]	-0.10	[illegible]
Growth Inc	42.63	45.05†	-0.50	1.72
Private Portfolio	532.40	539.00	-3.90	1.15
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	171.20	182.29	+3.00	
High Income	29.36	31.72†	+0.11	[illegible]
Japan Smlr Cos	17.50	18.74	+0.20	
US Smaller Cos	475.30	505.50	+3.90	
For Foster & Braithwaite see [illegible]				
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	85.39	91.62	-1.59	
-do- Accum	85.39	91.62	-1.59	
Amer Smlr Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Capital Tst	[illegible]	424.80	-0.10	1.26
-do- Accum	599.70	637.30	-0.30	1.26
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.74	0.57
-do- Accum	68.77	[illegible]	-0.79	0.57
Convertible	142.80	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emerging Markets	79.36	[illegible]	-1.04	0.54
-do- Accum	[illegible]	84.39	+1.04	[illegible]
European	176.90	187.20†	-2.35	0.50
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extra Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.90	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Financial	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.94
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.30	0.94
Gilt Trust	62.41	[illegible]	+0.01	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Health Fund Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	104.00	107.40†	+0.20	6.69
Euro Prw Inc	119.40	127.00	+1.70	2.75
-do- Accum	119.40	127.00	+1.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	122.20	129.00†	-0.70	6.27
Global Income	254.90	271.20†	+3.10	2.95
High Yield	180.40	191.90	+1.50	4.86
-do- Accum	608.00	646.80	+5.00	4.86
Money Market	100.25	100.25†	+0.01	5.78
Smllr Cos Div	64.34	68.45†	-0.01	3.78
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1065.00	1081.00†	+6.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	174.70	185.90	+1.90	
Asian Growth	319.60	340.00	+3.30	
-do- Accum	375.60	399.60	+4.00	
North American	128.40	136.60	+2.80	
European Special	150.30	159.90	+2.10	1.04
European	213.10	226.70†	+3.30	0.57
-do- Accum	283.40	301.50†	+4.40	0.57
Global Eqty Inc	136.70	145.00	+1.60	1.92
Japan	397.50	412.20†	+8.60	
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	185.90	190.10†		4.02
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0800 363432				
High Inc #	98.92	102.00†	+0.40	6.41
M & S Inv Pfolio	197.30	203.40	+1.40	2.30
-do- Accum	236.40	243.70	+1.60	2.30
UK Sel Pfolio	176.30	181.70†	+1.00	2.30
-do- Accum	216.90	223.60†	+1.20	2.30
UK 100 Cos	137.50	137.50	+1.10	2.44
-do- Accum	140.90	140.90	+1.10	2.44
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	73.39	77.98	-0.12	3.39
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	94.10	99.80†	+1.17	3.29
Europe @	121.80	129.30	+2.50	0.32
Income @	94.[illegible]	100.20†	+1.23	3.85
Nth American	113.40	120.30†	+1.60	0.01

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	371.30	395.10	+2.90	2.03
-do- Accum	497.60	529.40	+2.90	2.02
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	293.30	312.10	+0.40	0.91
-do- Accum	365.00	388.40	+0.60	0.91
Select Oppty Inc	94.30	101.50	+0.75	1.75
Income Plus Inc	94.47	100.50	+0.56	2.30
European Inc	537.80	571.80	+7.60	0.75
-do- Accum	619.80	659.00	+8.00	0.75
Far Eastern Inc	185.90	197.80	+1.70	0.90
-do- Accum	216.20	230.00	+1.90	0.93
Japanese Inc	58.46	62.20	+1.42	
Nth American Inc	402.00	426.70	+8.80	0.35
-do- Accum	445.20	472.70	+9.70	0.35
Intl Growth Inc	255.70	276.30	+4.40	0.40
Wwide Sustain Inc	110.60	117.70	-1.80	0.43
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT 0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	495.30	525.20	+1.90	2.40
-do- Accum	767.10	810.50	+7.90	2.40
UK High Inc	237.90	253.50	+0.90	2.39
Japan Smlr Cos	38.77	40.81	+0.63	
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	127.60	129.00		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8014	0.8099	+0.01	
Gilt Income	51.86	52.47	+0.08	6.30
Gilt Growth	81.43	82.89	+0.34	
Sterling Bond	49.92	50.75†	+0.13	6.80
Challenger	91.47	94.25	+0.28	1.60
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	63.96	67.90	+0.77	1.75
UK Stockmarket	115.80	123.10	+0.70	2.28
Corporate Bd Inc	50.07	50.18	+0.10	6.25
Do Accum	53.00	53.11	+0.11	6.25

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge

Council liable for damage caused by roadside tree

Hurst and Another v Hampshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment June 19]

Where a tree grew in the verge of a highway which had been dedicated to the public the highway authority were liable for damage to a building adjacent to the highway caused by the roots of the tree.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Hampshire County Council from an award by Mr Recorder Meggeson, at Southampton County Court, of £78,823 to the plaintiffs, Steven John Hurst and Jane Hurst, for damage to their house.

Mr Simon Russen for the council; Mr Dermod O'Brien, QC and Mr John McDonald for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiffs were the owners of a semi-detached house at 213 Highlands Road, Fareham, built in 1954; the other part of the building was numbered 211. The council were the highway authority for Highlands Road.

In the verge of the highway outside the boundaries of 211 and 213 was an oak tree. It was between 170 and 190 years old. If the dividing line between 211 and 213 was extended out to the centre of the road, the tree was on the 211 side of the line.

Highlands Road was an ancient highway originally maintainable by the inhabitants at large which subsequently vested in the council or their predecessors. It was accepted that the tree was planted and grew after the highway had been dedicated to the public.

In 1989, during a very dry summer, the plaintiffs' house began to suffer serious structural damage. It was the plaintiffs' case that the damage was caused by subsidence due to moisture extraction or dehydration of the clay soil by the roots of the tree.

The council maintained that the damage was caused by rehydration of the soil resulting in heave rather than subsidence. The recorder resolved the issue in favour of the plaintiffs and there was no appeal on that point.

The recorder also found that the damage to the plaintiffs' house was reasonably foreseeable by the council. Following the decisions of the Court of Appeal in *Leakey v National Trust* ([1980] 1 QB 485) and *Solloway v Hampshire County Council* ((1981) 79 LGR 449) that was a necessary precondition to liability in nuisance on the part of the council.

The recorder did not find that the council owned the tree. He found them liable in nuisance and negligence, seemingly on the basis that they "had power to maintain the tree and did so maintain it".

The power to maintain was contained in section 96(1) of the Highways Act 1980. There was evidence that between about 1956 and 1984 the council pruned the tree from time to time.

Mr Russen submitted that section 96(1) provided a power only to maintain the tree. In the absence of a claim based on section 96(6) of the Act he said that there was no statutory duty to act and mere failure to do so did not give rise to liability at common law.

He submitted that the tree was not the property of the council, but of the owner of the subsoil. He relied on the presumption that the owner of land adjoining the highway owned the soil up to the midline of the highway.

However, it was clear that the tree was in fact on the 211 side of the projected boundary between the two houses, so that if anyone other than the council was the owner it was the owner of 211.

The primary submission of Mr O'Brien was that under the statutory provisions whereby the highway was vested in the council and their predecessors the property in the tree also vested in them so that they became owners of the tree, or, alternatively, sufficient property in it to found liability for nuisance.

Mr O'Brien's alternative submission was that the power to maintain contained in section 96(1), coupled with the exercise of that power by pruning the tree for at least 30 years, demonstrated sufficient control over the tree to found an action in nuisance.

Before considering the relevant statutory provisions, it was convenient for the purpose of the judgment to divide trees growing in the highway into three categories:

1 Those planted and growing in the highway before dedication or adoption of the highway by the inhabitants at large or the highway authority: pre-adoption trees.

2 Those planted and growing in the highway after dedication or adoption, but not planted under statutory powers: post-adoption trees. The tree in the present case was a post-adoption tree.

3 Those planted under express statutory powers granted to the highway authority: planted trees.

Section 96 of the 1980 Act provided: "(1) ... a highway authority may, in a highway maintainable at the public expense by them, plant trees ... and may ... do anything expedient for the maintenance ... of trees ... planted ... whether or not by them, in such a highway."

His Lordship said that that power to maintain trees, which included the power to prune them, related to all three categories.

Subsection (6) provided: "No tree ... shall be planted ... or ... allowed to remain ... so as to be a nuisance ... to the owner ... of premises adjacent to the highway."

That subsection applied only to planted trees.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans was in error in *Russell v Barnet London Borough Council* ((1984) 83 LGR 152, 170-171) where he said that the predecessor of that subsection applied to all trees, whether or not planted by the highway authority.

So far as planted trees were concerned it was clear that the highway authority would be liable under section 96(6) if the roots of the planted tree caused dehydration to the soil and consequent subsidence of a building adjacent to the highway.

In his Lordship's opinion, the authorities also showed that a sufficient property in post-adoption trees also vested in the highway authority to ground an action for nuisance both at the suit of the user of the highway who was injured as a result of the dangerous condition of the tree and also at the suit of an adjoining owner who suffered damage to person or property, provided the damage was reasonably foreseeable.

His Lordship referred to *Turner v Ringwood* ((1870) LR 9 Eq 418); *Coverdale v Charlton* ((1878) 4 QBD 104 and *Stillwell v New Windsor Corporation* ([1932] 2 Ch 155).

Mr Russen submitted that if the plaintiffs' submission was correct section 96(6) was otiose because the highway authority would in any event be under a potential liability in nuisance to road users and adjoining owners and occupiers at common law. Section 96(6) imposed a liability, he submitted, which would not otherwise exist at common law.

But, in his Lordship's judgment, Mr O'Brien's answer to that submission was correct. Section 96(6) had been inserted to guard against an argument which might otherwise be based upon the principle in *Geddis v Bann Reservoir* ((1878 3 App Cas 430), namely, that if the statutory power to plant was exercised without negligence the highway authority would not be liable if the consequence of the growth and development of the tree resulted in nuisance.

There was no doubt that, so far as post-adoption trees were concerned, the property in them vested in the highway authority for all purposes.

If they were planted, albeit not under statutory power, they were planted for highway purposes in that part of the soil which plainly vested. If they were self-seeded, again they were seeded in that part of the highway which vested in the local authority.

If as they matured their roots encroached into the subsoil which remained the property of the adjoining owner, his Lordship did not see how that made the trees the property of the owner of the subsoil.

That was sufficient to dispose of the appeal in the plaintiffs' favour, but both counsel had urged upon the court the view that there was no logical distinction between pre and post-adoption trees so far as the liability of the highway authority to adjoining owners was concerned.

Mr Russen relied on the decision of Mr Justice Tudor Evans in *Russell v Barnet LBC* and a decision of his Lordship in *Bridges v Harrow LBC* ((1981) 260 EG 284) that the highway authority was not liable for post-adoption trees. For the reasons already given his Lordship rejected that submision.

Mr O'Brien submitted that both decisions were wrong. He pointed out that even in relation to pre-adoption trees the highway authority were liable in nuisance to users of the highway. The law extended to users of the highway the same protection in relation to nuisance on the highway as an occupier of land enjoyed in relation to a nuisance causing physical damage emanating from the adjoining land.

If there was any logical basis in the distinction it depended upon the fiction that in the case of a pre-adoption tree there was a reservation from the public's right to pass over the full extent of the highway that part of the surface on which the tree was growing and that the owner of the land at dedication intended to reserve the tree from the dedication.

There were no authorities binding upon the court which precluded the court from holding that pre-adoption trees vested in the highway authority for all purposes. The time had come when the courts should adopt a consistent approach to all highway trees other than those already subject to the statutory scheme now contained in section 96 of the 1980 Act.

Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Mr P. C. B. Robertson, Alresford; C. A. Norris, Southampton.

Cutting time of rehearing

Northumberland and Durham Property Trust Ltd v London Rent Assessment Committee and Others

When remitting a case to a tribunal for rehearing where a respondent had conceded a material ground of appeal, a court was not bound to hear full argument on every other ground of appeal to comply with Order 55, *rule 7(5) of the Rules of the* Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Latham so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division on May 23 when allowing an appeal by the appellant landlord under section 11 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 against the respondent's determination of a fair rent of the appellant's properties.

The appellant had submitted that despite the respondent's concession that two of the 13 grounds of appeal had been made out and that the matter should be remitted to the tribunal, the court was *obliged under Order 55 to hear full* argument on all 13 grounds in order to provide the tribunal with its opinion.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the court had the power, in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction to control its own procedures, to decline to hear argument beyond that necessary to determine the appropriate form of relief.

In exercising that discretion the court should have in mind the wider interest of the proper administration of justice, namely saving time and costs, and should be slow to permit an appellant to pursue its other grounds of appeal unless it could properly be said that it was necessary in the interests of justice for the court to determine and give its opinion upon those grounds.

Untrue letter fraudulent

Henry Ansbacher & Co Ltd v Binks Stern (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment June 24]

A decision by a court of first instance acquitting a person of fraud could not be overturned on appeal except on the clearest grounds.

But a finding that a solicitor at the request of his client made a written representation to a bank that the solicitor knew to be untrue had inevitably to lead to the conclusion that it was made fraudulently.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the bank, Henry Ansbacher & Co Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Knox in May 1995 in which he had held that a misrepresentation made in a letter by Mr W. R. Binks, then senior partner of a firm of solicitors, Binks Stern, at the request of Mr Roger Levitt, was not made fraudulently.

Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr T. A. G. Beazley for the bank; Mr Alan Steinfeld, QC and Mr Michael King for the solicitors.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that on September 12, 1990, Mr Binks, at the request of Mr Levitt, wrote to the bank.

The letter was received at a time when the bank was contemplating lending some £2.5 million to Mr Levitt on the security of what it understood to be two uncompleted contracts with General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc and Commercial Union Life Assurance Co Ltd.

The bank's case was that the letter contained a clear representation that Mr Binks was acting for Mr Levitt and that the contracts had not been completed. The true position was that they had been completed, their security value was nil and that Mr Binks, who had a close business relationship with Mr Levitt, knew that the contracts had been completed.

Relying partly on that letter the bank had made the loan to Mr Levitt. Within three months Mr Levitt was exposed as a fraudulent rogue and in his ensuing bankruptcy the bank lost the money it had lent.

The judge had dismissed the bank's action for fraudulent misrepresentation. He was not satisfied that Mr Binks's representation that the share sale agreement had not been completed was made fraudulently. He classified Mr Binks's conduct as "very gravely mistaken".

Miss Dohmann effectively assigned the case to the category described by Lord Jenkins in *Akerhielm v De Mare* ([1959] AC 789, 806) in which it was impossible to hold that Mr Binks honestly understood the representation to bear the meaning claimed by him and honestly believed it in that sense to be true.

Mr Steinfeld argued, correctly, that that submission could only be accepted if the court was convinced that the high test affirmed by the Privy Council in *Akerhielm* (at p806) was satisfied.

He added, again correctly, that the satisfaction of that high test was made all the harder where the effective defendant was a solicitor aged 68, the senior partner in his firm and one who had practised for over 25 years without the slightest blemish on his character.

However, someone who represented that he was acting for another in relation to a binding agreement for sale, the representation being untrue to his knowledge and influenced by the other's request not to reveal that completion had taken place, could only intend to convey, or be willing to give the impression that the agreement had not been completed.

Indeed, the judge himself recognised that to accept instructions to write a solicitor's letter on a subject without menitoning a particular fact when one did not know the context was perilous and that the line between not mentioning a fact on the one hand and giving a misleading impression while not mentioning a fact on the other hand became doubly perilous when the context was not known.

The conclusion was that Mr Binks intended to convey, or at least was willing to give the impression that the share sale agreements had not been completed.

In arriving at that conclusion the court had faithfully sought to apply the high test required. There were the clearest grounds for setting aside the judge's decision.

Out of natural sympathy for the predicament in which Mr Binks had come to find himself, the judge had failed to appreciate the inevitable consequence of his findings that Mr Binks knew that the representation was untrue and was influenced by Mr Levitt's request not to reveal that completion had taken place.

In writing the letter of September 12, Mr Binks intended to convey, or at least was willing to give the impression that the share sale agreements had not been completed.

The bank was entitled to judgment in the action.

Solicitors: Gouldens; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert

'Zinc' use limited

Conran v Mean Fiddler Holdings Ltd and Others

Both the use of "Zn", the chemical symbol for the element zinc, and the use of "ZN", because plainly close to it, as well as the use of "SINC" or "SYNC", would amount to infringements of the trade mark "ZINC", registered under No 2023230 on June 7, 1955, in respect of planning, design and interior design of restaurants, cafés, cafeterias, bistros, wine bars, and so on.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division on May 6 when in granting the plaintiff, Sir Terence Conran, summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for an injunction restraining Mean Fiddler Holdings Ltd, The Zinc Bar Ltd and John Vincent Power, a director of both companies, from infringing that mark, whether by the use, in relation to bars or restaurants or bar restaurants, of the words and marks "ZINCBAR", "ZINC", "SINC", "SYNC", "ZN", "Zn" or any other word of mark *colourably similar thereto,* or otherwise howsoever.

Judge can form own opinion

Regina v Smith (Leonard)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment June 9]

A judge considering the sentence to be passed on a stalker after an 11-day trial was entirely justified in dissenting from reports of psychiatric opinion whether the offender, if at liberty, would present a continuing threat to the victim.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when reducing from 30 to 21 months the sentence on Peter Leonard Smith, aged 52, imposed at Knightsbridge Crown Court by Judge Richard Walker on conviction for assault occasioning actual bodily harm on the victim, contrary to section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 by conducting an obsessive pursuit of the victim from 1992 to 1996.

Mrs Pearl Humberstone, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Aftab Jaffergee, present by direction of the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question for the judge in sentencing was whether the threshold for a custodial sentence had been crossed bearing in mind the appellant's conduct had been persisted in for a long period, causing injury to the victim's mental and physical health and that he had persisted despite many warnings and opportunities to desist.

Mrs Humberstone accepted that the custody threshold had been crossed and their Lordships had no hesitation in agreeing.

His Lordship referred to *R v Burstow (The Times* July 30, 1996; [1997] 1 Cr App R 104) and *R v Constanza (The Times* March 31, 1997) and said that Mrs Humberstone relied on the relationship in the present case being genuine and loving and also that the appellant had been suffering from a depressive illness while the events were taking place.

She also relied on psychiatric reports on the appellant and, in particular, on the report that the appellant did not represent a continuing threat to the victim. She submitted in the grounds of appeal that the judge was wrong to take a different view.

Their Lordships were of the very clear opinion that the judge was entirely justified in taking the view that he did, even if that meant some divergence from the psychiatric opinions before him.

It was the practice of the courts to receive with great respect any opinion expressed by any qualified medical practitioner. On technical questions turning on issues of medical expertise or diagnosis a judge would be very unlikely to dissent from such an opinion.

The question in this case, however, was whether the appellant was likely, if at liberty, to represent a continuing threat to the victim. The judge had correctly held that that was something on which he was much better placed to form an opinion than the doctors. Accordingly, their Lordships would make no criticism of his approach.

Starting from the position that a custodial sentence was appropriate, the sentence had two elements as the judge had pointed out: (i) punishment for the conduct persisted in over a period to the grave injury to the victim; (ii) to afford a significant measure of protection to the victim.

It was relevant to bear in mind that the appellant was driven by his obsession, which he appeared to be unable to control. That did not relieve him of responsibility for what he had done but it mitigated the gravity of the offence to some extent.

So far as concerned appropriate period protection of the victim, it was important to bear in mind that in contrast to *Burstow* the present was the appellant's first experience of imprisonment.

One had reason to hope that the experience might have the effect of bringing him to his senses and that conduct of the kind complained of simply could not be tolerated or accepted. A significant custodial sentence was called for.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Correction

In *Marshall v NM Financial Management Ltd (The Times* June 24) the unsuccessful appeal was brought by the defendant, NM Financial Management, represented by Mr Mark Cran, QC and Mr Neil Calver. The plaintiff, Mr Marshall, was represented by Mr Mark Barnes, QC and Mr Andrew Lenon.

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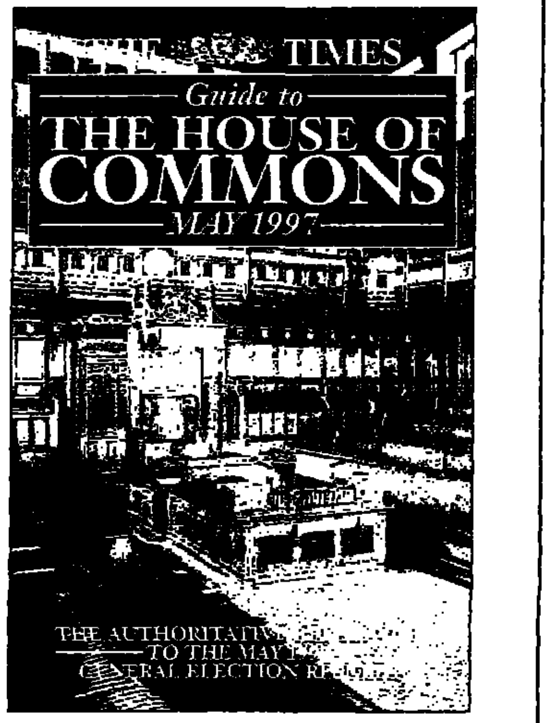
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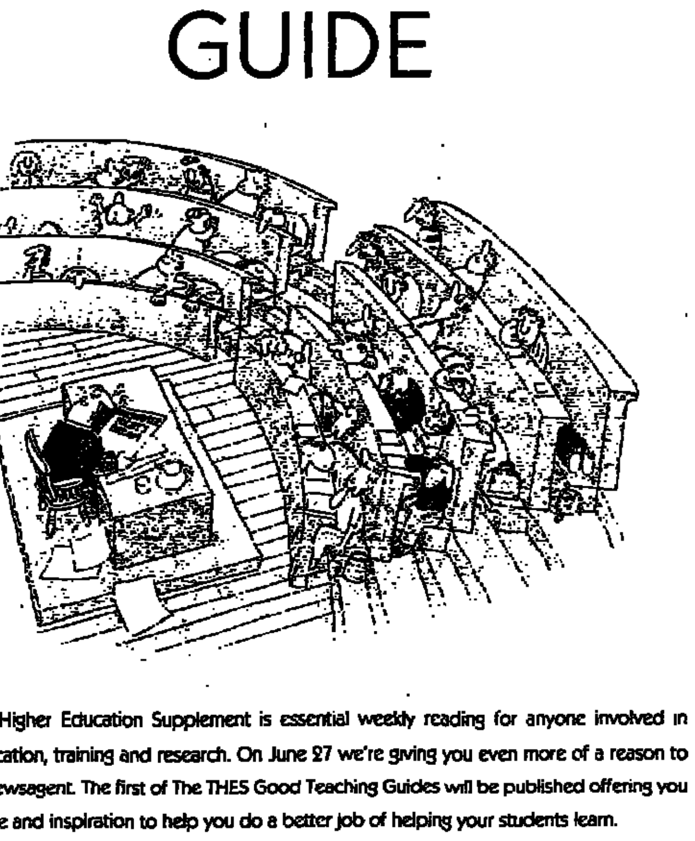
GOOD
GUIDE



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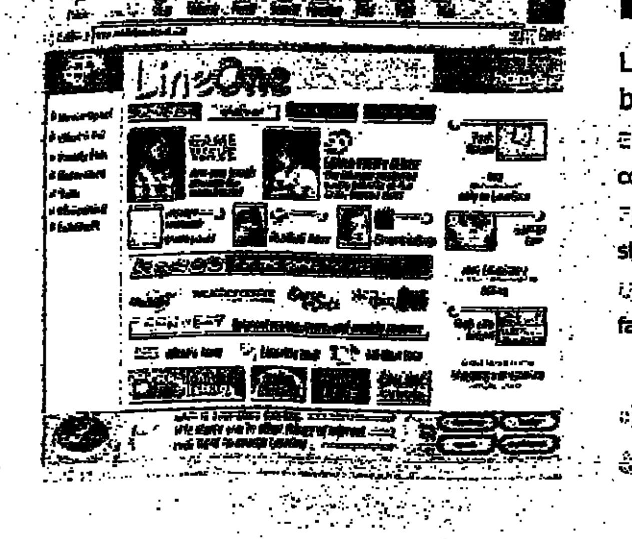

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■ FILM 1

Holy vacuity! Despite the technical wizardry, *Batman & Robin* is thin on real thrills

■ FILM 2

... but *Love Jones* is a pleasant surprise: a warm, intelligent movie about inner-city youth

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

A rebel with a cause is depicted in the absorbing docu-drama *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin White Mask*

■ FILM 4

... and the ICA also revives Gillo Pontecorvo's superb 1965 epic, *The Battle of Algiers*

CINEMA: Biff! George Clooney has a bash at playing Gotham City's finest. Pow! **Geoff Brown** sides with the baddies

Wholly ludicrous, Caped Crusader

George Clooney, Uma Thurman and Chris O'Donnell compare costumes in a scene from *Batman & Robin*, the latest in the money-spinning series

Batman & Robin
Warner West End
PG, 125 mins
New bottle, old wine

Love Jones
Virgin Trocadero
15, 109 mins
Endearing black romance

Frantz Fanon: Black Skin White Mask
ICA Cinema, 70 mins
Poetic portrait of the black intellectual

The Battle of Algiers
ICA Cinema, 121 mins
Pontecorvo's masterpiece revived

Batman & Robin — it has a PG certificate, if Diana, Princess of Wales is interested — is tottering towards the home stretch. Michael Gough, alias Alfred the butler, lies pale and dishevelled in bed. He is desperately ill. A doctor advises: "It's stage one of MacGregor's syndrome."

Perhaps I am suffering from something related. You could call it Schumacher's syndrome, after the film's director, Joel Schumacher, who also perpetrated the previous Batman epic, *Batman Forever*. It is caused by prolonged exposure to high-tech blockbusters that batter eyes and ears for hours at a time, set cash registers ringing the world over, but give no nourishment to the imagination. The disease is not fatal, but one's spirit dies a little.

As usual with these affairs, the first 20 minutes test one's stamina. After a few cheeky shots of Batman and Robin zipping up their black leather, the crime fighters race off to battle. Robin, as before, is Chris O'Donnell, eager and bland. Batman is George Clooney: apt casting physically, although he gets no closer than Michael Keaton or Val Kilmer to rendering the character interesting.

Their destination is the Gotham Museum of Art, encased in ice by Mr Freeze. He is portrayed by Arnold Schwarzenegger, got up to look like the mongrel offspring of the Tin Man in the *Wizard of Oz* and the Ice Queen. "The Iceman cometh!" Mr Freeze says with a mad glint in his eye. And he keeps on coming, along with the biffs and bashes, the aerial battles, the laboratory explosions and the tedious vamping of a villainness (Uma Thurman's Poison Ivy). The pile-driving style is fine for raising audience adrenalin, but does nothing to help the film to nurture either characters or plot.

When the time comes, as it must, for these to be treated, the film falls apart. Batman and Robin quarrel about trust. Batman fears for the dying Alfred, his childhood saviour. Then the butler's English niece (Alicia Silverstone) arrives, although she acts and speaks more like a motorcycle chick from the San Fernando Valley. These wisps of plot never knit together, and only highlight the shallow spectacle between.

From the technical standpoint, the production's finesse provides much to gawp at. Gotham's Gothic towers shoot into the sky. Streets, buildings and people are frozen where they stand; there are stunts galore. Bigger, though, is not particularly better, especially when Gotham's basic design is unchanged. Even rabid fans of the series may be feeling they have been here too often.

But they have not seen the villains, and it is they who give *Batman & Robin* whatever life it contains. Monotony sets in quickly with Thurman, the horticulturalist turned slinky vamp. But Schwarzenegger is funny, moderately, and he seems to be enjoying himself. I'm glad somebody is.

By contrast, **Love Jones** is easy to enjoy. The cast comprises young African Americans. The city is Chicago. The time is now. You wait for the first ghetto slaying, the first heroin overdose. They never happen. Instead, characters in Theodore Witcher's first film recite poetry to double bass and sax accompaniment; they drop mentions of Charlie Parker, Mozart, even Bernard Shaw. Above all, they talk about love and sex, trust and commitment. This is that rarity: a caring, alert film about people.

Indeed, *Love Jones*, featuring Larenz Tate and Nia Long, is so smoothly civilised that it almost persuades you to overlook its faults. But not quite. As the relationship between struggling photographer Nina and struggling writer Darius waxes and wanes, Witcher's script loses some grip on real life and falls into cliché. And all the available charm in the world — Tate and Long have considerable amounts — cannot hide the growing feeling of a film in low gear.

If Schwarzenegger or these Chicago lovebirds cannot entice you into a cinema, maybe Frantz Fanon will? No movie star he, although the actor impersonating the black intellectual in **Frantz Fanon: Black Skin White Mask** is certainly glamorous in looks, far more so than the genuine article. Born in Martinique in 1925, Fanon joined the French Resistance to combat Nazi Germany, trained in medicine and psychiatry, wrote his book *Black Skin White Mask* as a graduate thesis, worked at a psychiatric hospital in Algeria, and joined the country's National Liberation Front. His experiences gave him particular insight into the mindset of racism and colonialism, and it is those that help to shape Isaac Julien and Mark Nash's absorbing, poetic portrait.

This is far from a straight documentary. Staged recreations of scenes from Fanon's life, featuring Colin Salmon, merge with interviews with family members and cultural theorists. Newsreel footage, fictional film snatches, archive radio broadcasts are all blended in. Julien may have fallen down when directing actors in his fictional feature *Young Soul Rebels*, but he is a wizard at seducing us with socio-historical essays.

Even when shooting talking heads, Julien and his cinematographer Nina Kellgren strive for poetic intensity in lighting and composition. This is not simply mannerism. It suits the script's conception of Fanon as a romantic figure, who died young, of leukaemia, in 1961, months before Algeria's independence. The overt visual style also chimes with Fanon's thoughts about the dynamics of looking and desiring: not for nothing is *Frantz Fanon* devised by two people happy with structuralist film theory (Nash, producer and co-writer, once edited the infamous magazine *Screen*). Still, this is not a film to be afraid of: it stimulates the brain, heart and eye.

So, too, does **The Battle of Algiers.** Gillo Pontecorvo's masterly film from 1965, revived as a companion piece to the Fanon portrait. Partly funded by the Algerian Government and banned for a time in France, Pontecorvo's film thrusts us headlong into the country's struggle for independence in the 1950s. We see, in hard-edged black-and-white, the teeming casbah, the Liberation Front leaders planning tactics and evading capture, buildings dynamited, dance-halls bombed, prisoners executed by guillotine or intimidated by blowtorch.

It is not a pretty picture. But compared to recent movies about Northern Ireland, Pontecorvo is notably even-handed about his warring parties. His heart is with the Algerian people, but he accords French colonials their degree of humanity, particularly Colonel Mathieu, the coolly intelligent paratroop leader bent on destroying the revolution's command.

SNAP VERDICT

'By far the best'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

■ *BATMAN & ROBIN*

Damian Samuels, 20: Arnie, Uma, Chris and George provide more light entertainment from the City of Gotham — all Batfans will be relieved that Val Kilmer is sticking to Simon Templar.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: The real Batman has arrived! George Clooney is perfectly cast. His Caped Crusader has strength and sensitivity.

Sarah Crook, 18: A rather disappointing effort from this all-star cast. It was more special effects than plot — greater emphasis was needed on camp gags.

Tom Hertogs, 17: When Uma Thurman arrived on screen, my temperature soared. This fourth instalment in the *Batman* series is by far the best.

■ *LOVE JONES*

Damian: A *Friends* for the big screen. A nice and witty comedy about relationships — but nothing special.

Leslie: This funny and intelligent script combines with great acting. It made for a charm-filled couple of hours.

Sarah: A nice contrast to *Batman*. If you're on a date and your partner has half a brain, choose this one. A great Nineties romantic comedy.

Tom: At last, a film that doesn't portray black Americans as gun-toting druggies.

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■ NEW VIDEOS

Madonna in throaty form for *Evita*: plus early Woody Allen and vintage Jerry Lewis

■ NEW CDS 1

Turbo-charged Strauss comes from Giuseppe Sinopoli in a new recording of *Elektra*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ NEW CDS 2

. . . and Dave Brubeck finds himself in the company of Weill and Stravinsky on the Brodsky's latest

■ NEW CDS 3

. . . while Daniele Gatti and Rome's premier orchestra surge through Respighi's "Roman" works

Madonna calls on Argentina not to cry for her in her high-decibel role as Alan Parker's rags-to-riches *Evita*

Deafener of the faith

NEW ON VIDEO: Madonna blasts away as Evita; 1960s reissues find Jerry Lewis in fine face-pulling form

■ **EVITA**
Entertainment, PG, 1997

PEASANT girl gets rich and powerful and then, poor thing, she dies. Madonna sings with gusto, but no character really interacts with another: they declaim to the camera, or, more precisely, mime to the thunderous soundtrack. It will take a hardened fan of Lloyd Webber's show — and there are plenty, I know — to survive more than two hours of noisy mediocrity, and hob-nailed direction from Alan Parker. Available to rent.

■ **THE BELLBOY**
JMC, U, 1960

NEWLY in the public eye with the show *Damn Yankees* and Eddie Murphy's remake of *The Nutty Professor*, Jerry Lewis is now awarded a video promotion. Four films from the 1960s are available, including this ambitious plotless comedy, stacked with sight gags, featuring Lewis as an incompetent bellboy at a fashionable Miami hotel. *The Errand Boy* is also very funny, but *Cinderfella* and *The Patsy* are dogged by pathos and undue pretensions.

■ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
PolyGram, 15, 1996

JODIE FOSTER'S second film as director has its bad patches, but still offers a vigorous comic portrait of family togetherness at Thanksgiving. Holly Hunter arrives having just lost her job, while her gay brother, Robert Downey Jr, just wants to caper. Meanwhile, the smothering mother of them all, Anne Bancroft, summons them to dinner: "Come on, people are starving in the former Yugoslavia!" Available to rent.

■ **SLEEPER**
MGM/UA, U, 1973

LATER Woody Allen films have many pleasures, but they cannot capture the innocent abandon of earlier efforts, like this sparkling sci-fi romp. There's a wisp of plot, gags galore, inventive visual jokes (Woody as a robot, the kidnapped nose), great futuristic designs, and a driving ragtime score (with Allen on clarinet). Seven other vintage films, including *Bananas*, *Zelig* and his serious drama, *Interiors*, are newly available, all with original trailers.

■ **SURVIVING PICASSO**
Warner, 15, 1996

HE MAY not have a Spanish accent, but Anthony Hopkins manages a fair visual impression of the painter. Not that James Ivory's film spends much time with canvas and brush: this is about Picasso the womaniser and the tangle of wives and mistresses. The man's bumptious caperings are off-putting, but there is none of the arid air that sometimes infects Merchant-Ivory films. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Sinopoli's *Elektra*; symphonic poems; and Brodsky

Vienna Philharmonic at centre stage

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **STRAUSS**
Elektra
Marc/Voigt/Schwarz/Ramey/Vienna Phil/Sinopoli
DG 453 429-2 (2 CDs) ★★, £29.99

IT WAS a sure bet that Giuseppe Sinopoli after his success with *Salome* at the beginning of the 1990s would one day turn to *Elektra*. Here it is with the regular Sinopoli hallmarks: the violent is ultra-violent and the lush is ultra-lush. And, for those who like their early Strauss that way, DG's engineers have done a marvellous job of parading the Vienna Philharmonic.

Sinopoli makes sure the orchestra is the hero of the piece. But it also has a heroine and Alessandra Marc, a recent Chrysothemis under Barenboim, faces powerful competition. She sings with fine fury but cannot match the pure animal lust for revenge that Nilsson brought with Solti or the feminine insights of Behrens under Ozawa.

Her two female partners are distinguished: Deborah Voigt turns Chrysothemis into a creature lost in the emotional turmoil around her, and Hanna Schwarz is one of the maddest and spookiest Klytemnestras on disc. But Samuel Ramey is oddly cast as Orestes; strange, too, that Siegfried Jerusalem should have accepted the small and ungrateful part of Aegisthus.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **RESPIGHI**
Fountains of Rome; Roman Festivals; Pines of Rome
Santa Cecilia Orch/Gatti
Conifer 75605 51292 2 ★★★ £14.99

DESPITE his eminent appointments with the Royal Opera and Royal Philharmonic in this country, Daniele Gatti has not hitherto featured much in the record catalogues. Now that he has been signed exclusively by BMG Conifer, all that is to change, though Gatti has indicated that he will be tempted into the studio only to make what he deems to be "necessary" recordings.

The first such is of Respighi's three Roman symphonic poems: not exactly rare repertoire, one might think, but the justification is that the works were written for the orchestra that Gatti conducts here, that of the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome. That orchestra in fact gave the first performances of *Fountains and Pines* (in 1917 and 1924 respectively) and now makes its first complete recording of the trilogy.

Both the playing and the recorded sound are stunning. The triumphal processions of the Trevi Fountain at Midday and the Pines of the Appian Way are properly thrilling.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

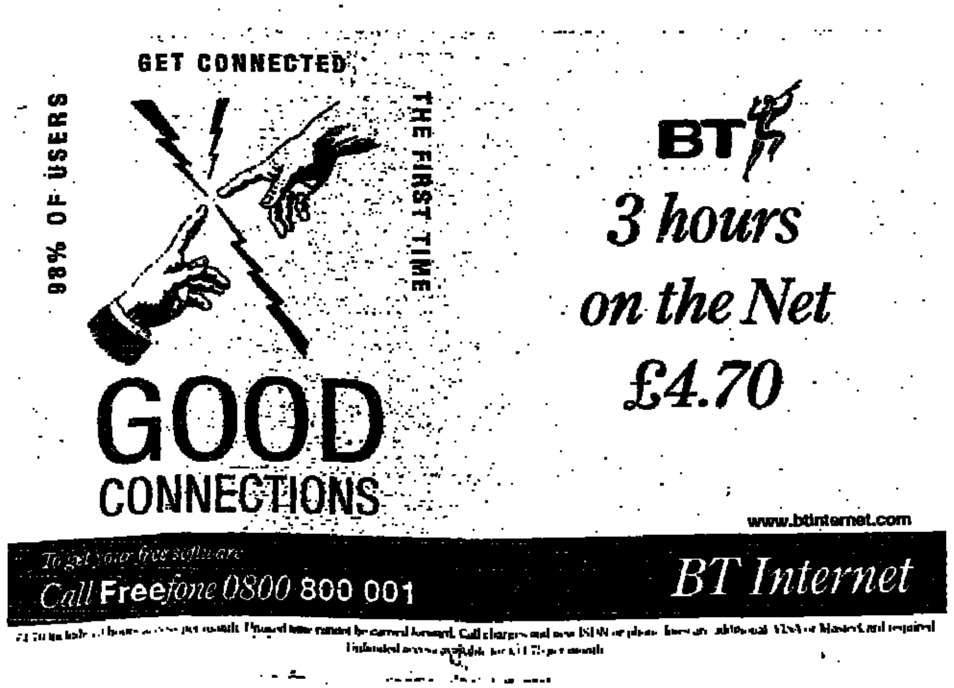
■ **BRUBECK/STRAVINSKY/WEILL**
String Quartets
Brodsky Quartet
Silva Classics SILKD 6014 ★★★, £14.49.

SPARKS fly from a new disc which reflects the challenges and vigour of a typical live Brodsky concert: no superficial crossover here, but rather a tough intermeshing of themes and associations from both sides of the Atlantic. The existing musical inter-relationships of Brubeck, Stravinsky and Weill are blessed, as it were, by the spirit of Bach, which hovers over each in the form of a fugitive chorale.

In Brubeck's *Chromatic Fantasy* the chorale shapes a sour-sweet slow movement, preceded by the hitherto unperformed and buoyant opening, and followed by a rather schoolmasterly Fugue written especially for the Brodskys. This is the first recording of Brubeck's Quartet in its entirety. Chorale as coda characterises Stravinsky's single-movement *Concertino* of 1920, its music pulsing between beguiling transparency, motor energy and stasis.

Kurt Weill is represented by one of his early abstract works, the 1923 String Quartet No 1 Op 8, in which the gravely beautiful opening, reminiscent of Schoenberg, yields at last to a long, unquiet *Choralephantasie*.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*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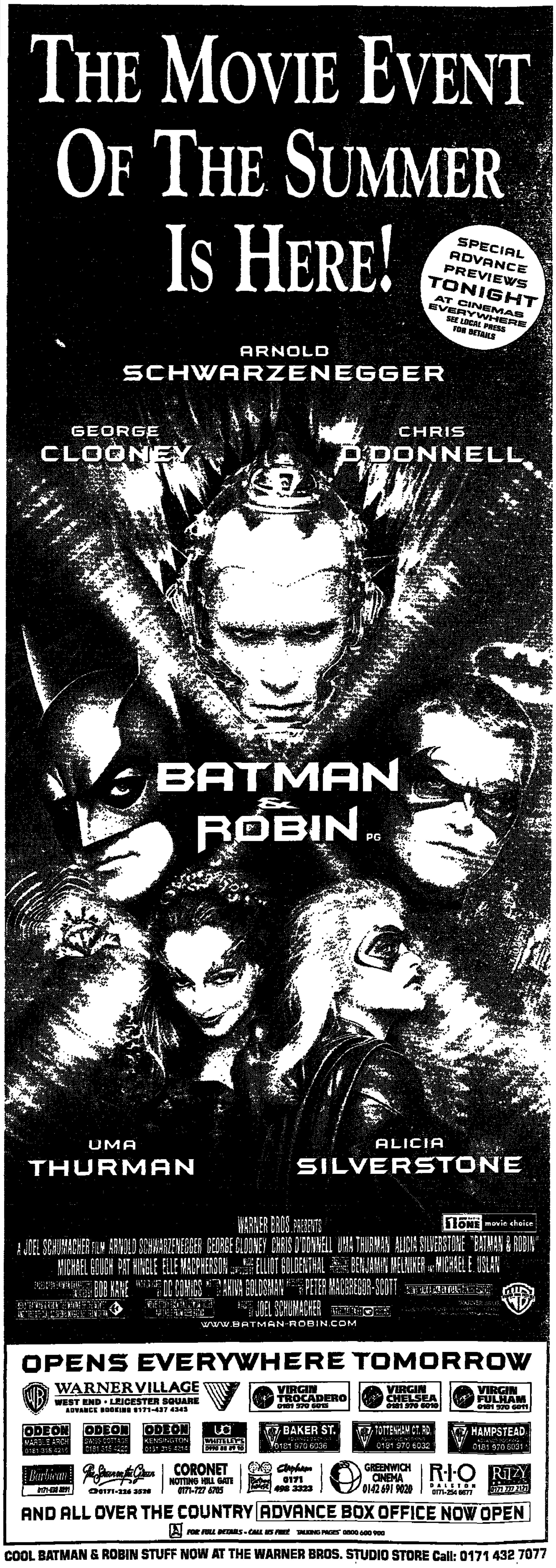
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■ CHOICE 1

The pianist Imogen Cooper offers an eclectic programme in Aldeburgh

VENUE: Tonight at Snape Maltings Concert Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Summer Pops: Carl Davis conducts the RLPO in the opening concert

VENUE: At Liverpool Cathedral, tonight

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

***Disappearances*, Terry Eagleton's new play, opens in Salisbury**

VENUE: Tonight at the Playhouse

■ OPERA

British tenor Anthony Rolfe Johnson pulls off a remarkable double at the St Louis Festival

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE. In **Tides of Night** director Hassan el-Geretly and his company, El-Warsha, transport the audience to the Upper Nile for a truly Egyptian evening (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, tonight-Sat, 8pm, returns only). Alternatively, Meard Street in Soho is the location for a live cinema experience, **Now and Again** Between 10pm and midnight (tonight-Sat), TEA will record and simultaneously project on to buildings the life of the street
LIFT Box Office (0171-312 1995)

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY An exhibition of winners and selected entries from the 18th annual **BP Portrait Award 1997** competition opens today. Visitors can also see a small exhibition of work by the **1996 BP Travel Award** winner, Sadie Lee
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, noon-6pm Until Oct 5

RHAPSODIES IN BLACK. Adam Lively talks about *Blackness and Modernism*, and explores the mix of black and white culture in New York.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight 7 30pm Ⓢ

SHOPPING AND F*ING** Mark Ravenhill's hyper-realist look at a druggy, everything-for-sale society returns for six weeks prior to the Edinburgh Festival
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm Until August 6

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH: Imogen Cooper offers a programme spanning 200 years of piano composition, including works by Schubert, Liszt and Thomas Adès
Snape Maltings Concert Hall (01728 453543) Tonight, 8pm

LIVERPOOL: Summer Pops 1997, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's annual event, mostly outdoor, at the King's Dock, celebrates its fifth anniversary this year In this evening's opening concert (returns only), in Liverpool Cathedral, the organist Ian Tracey joins the RLPO and conductor Carl Davis for a programme of music by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Gluck, Copland, Wagner and more The festival continues until July 20
The Arena, King's Dock (0151-709 3789) Tonight, 7 30pm.

MANCHESTER: Opera North gives the final performance this season of Monteverdi's **The Return of Ulysses** Nigel Robson sings the title role, with Alice Coote as his wife, Penelope. Conducted by Martin Pickard and directed by Annabel Arden, with designs by Tim Hatley and lighting by Peter Mumford. Sung in English.
Palace, Oxford Street (0161-242 2503). Tonight. 7.15pm. Ⓢ

SALISBURY. Rudolph Walker plays a celebrated, exiled but drunken poet, obliged to commit himself when his country hurtles into revolution Jonathan Church directs Terry Eagleton's new play, **Disappearances**
Salberg Studio, Playhouse, Malthouse Lane (01722 320333). Opens tonight, 7 45pm Then Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mats Thurs (July 3) and Sat (July 12), 3.30pm Until July 12.

LONDON GALLERIES

Anali Minott Eiler David Lilley — Hinterland (0171-336 7808) **Annely Juda** David Hockney: Flowers, Faces and Spaces (0171-629 7578) .. **Crane Kalman** Celso Lager (0171-584 7566) **Hart**: Antonia Salmon Ceramics (0171-704 1131) . **Lumley Cazalet** Elisabeth Frink: Sculpture and Drawings 1966-1993 (0171-491 4767) .. **Michael Goedhuis**: Paintings by Yang Yanping (0171-629 2228) **Museum of London.** In Royal Fashion (0171-600 0807) .. **Royal Academy**: 229th Summer Exhibition (0171-439 7438) .. **V & A**: Shamiana: The Mughal Tent (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ **House full, returns only**
- ◩ **Some seats available**
- ☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ALL THINGS CONSIDERED** Christopher Godwin plays a professor of philosophy whose attempts at suicide are constantly thwarted by visits from students and colleagues Alan Strachan directs Ben Brown's black comedy success from Scarborough.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 3 30pm Until July 5

☐ **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** Set on a remote Irish isle, with Ruaidhri Conroy as the young cripple Martin McDonagh's second play has its faults but is lively and sharply comic.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Today, 2 15pm and 7 30pm, in rep Ⓢ

☐ **DAMN YANKEES** Jerry Lewis heads an all-American cast in the Richard Adler/Jerry Ross musical about the baseball fan who sells his soul to the devil Jack O'Brien directs
Adelphi Strand WC2 (0171-413 1777) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2 30pm

☐ **FLYIN' WEST** Talawa Theatre Company in Pearl Cleage's play, set in the all-black town of Nicodemus, Kansas, shortly after the end of slavery Yvonne Brewster directs
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270) Tue-Sun, 7 30pm, mat Sun (June 28) 2 30pm Until June 28

☐ **THE GOODBYE GIRL** Gary Wilmot, Ann Crumb and Shezwae Powell in the Hamlisch/Zippel musical version of Neil Simon's play Dancer dumped by one actor and landed with another finds love Directed by Rob Bettinson
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN** Braham Murray's production of Wilde. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm Until July 12.

☐ **LIVE FROM BOERASSIC PARK** Pieter-Dirk Uys returns for another look at the lost world of White majority rule, including a visit from his redoubtable Mrs Evita Bezuidenhout, South Africa's answer to Dame Edna and said to be Mandela's favourite Afrikaans icon
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm Until July 5

☐ **SKYLIGHT** David Hare's witty and cogent play showing two moralities at odds, either the worldly-wise opposed to the idealistic, or perhaps the cynical matching the deluded Now with Bill Nighy and Stella Gonet, directed by Richard Eyre.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Now previewing, 8pm Opens June 30, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THE WINTER'S TALE**: Mike Alfreds brings his award-winning Method & Madness Co to London for this year's ensemble season: Shakespeare's bittersweet comedy plays in repertoire with Ibsen's Ghosts.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) In rep Mon-Sat, 7 30pm Until July 5

☐ **THE WOOD DEMON**: Good actors in a generally disappointing revival of Chekhov's first version of Uncle Vanya
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

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Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE CHAMBER** (12) Gloomy Death Row drama, from John Grisham's novel, with Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman Director James Foley
Empire Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE DEVIL'S OWN** (15): New York cop Harrison Ford unwittingly shelters Brad Pitt's IRA terrorist. Foolish drama, directed by Alan J Pakula
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0181-315 4212) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

INTIMATE RELATIONS (15) Tiresome black comedy set in 1950s Britain with Julie Walters and Rupert Graves Director, Philip Goodhew
Virgin Haymarket (0171-839 1527)

KAMA SUTRA (18) Sexual games in 16th-century India Decorative but pointless drama from director Mira Nair
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

MARVIN'S ROOM (12) Family squabbles, pain and love, explored with a fine cast (Meryl Streep, Diane Keaton Leonardo DiCaprio) Director Jerry Zaks
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Ritzy** (0171 737 2121)

◆ **PRIVATE PARTS** (18): Amusing portrait of outrageous radio personality Howard Stern's rise to fame
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **CON AIR** (15). Nasty prisoners hijack their plane. Ferocious rollercoaster ride, with Nicolas Cage
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **CRASH** (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex Chilly exercise in perversity, from J G Ballard's novel With James Spader and Holly Hunter
ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220)

◆ **DONNIE BRASCO** (18) FBI agent Johnny Depp befriends Mafia wiseguy Al Pacino. Thoughtful gangster saga, directed by Mike Newell
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

FEVER PITCH (15) Football-crazed teacher falls in love Appealing version of Nick Hornby's book, with Colin Firth
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE FIFTH ELEMENT** (PG) Sci-fi epic from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis as the taxi-driver who might save the world
Empire (0990 888990) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

JOHNS (18) Sympathetic drama about Los Angeles hustlers with Lukas Haas and David Arquette
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

FESTIVALS: An American summer season; plus Hampstead Garden Suburb's own

Meet them in St Louis

The Opera Theatre of Saint Louis's summer seasons are becoming almost as much of a time capsule as Drottningholm. The company's insistence on singing in the language of the audience seems almost quixotic in this day and age, especially in a country where even those operas given in English are garnished with surtitles and performances are "read" rather than listened to.

But OTSL's out-on-a-limb obstinacy still seems to be paying off: it plays to packed houses and receives loyal financial support from the local Great and Good, who in a less sane world might be tempted to support something ritzier and more fashionably "international". But I can only say that sitting in a 900-seat theatre with an audience that is actually listening to words and reacting to them as they are sung is becoming an increasingly rare pleasure in the operatic world.

It would be easy for a crabbed old critic to pick holes in last week's performances of *Cosi fan tutte* and *Madama Butterfly* — and I may even do so — but in the context of the audience's palpable and communal involvement in each bar, each dramatic paragraph of the dramas as they unfolded, it would be irrelevant. This is opera restored to its first, basic principles, as treasurable as it is refreshing.

There is the added interest of OTSL's policy of engaging young singers on the threshold of their careers. Fifty-eight of the singers on the Met artists' roster this season have been through the portals of Saint Louis: Sylvia McNair, Kallen Esperian, Ashley Putnam, Jerry Hadley and Thomas Hampson are OTSL alumni; Christine Brewer, the Coliseum's sensational Ariadne a few weeks ago, is the local prima donna.

Star-spotters this year instantly lighted upon Gregory Turay, the 24-year-old tenor who sang the title role in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. He is blessed with brightly burnished, beautifully golden tone, sounds easy in every register, sings words — in this case Anne Ridler's — as if they mean something, and was at once relaxed and intense in Colin Graham's smoothly flowing production.

The conductor was Anthony Rolfe Johnson, making his professional debut in this guise. The Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra may not have sounded totally at home in this music but they had a jolly good go; the two continuo groups on stage, though, were as authenic as could be, and Rolfe Johnson gave his fine singers plenty of room to phrase with maximum expressiveness without impeding the drama's natural flow. The evening ended with a genuine coup: Rolfe Johnson emerged from the pit in the guise of Apollo to comfort his disconsolate son with promises of immortality — an experienced tenor pointing a young colleague towards the future. It was incredibly moving.

OTSL is also committed to new and American opera — it has given 12 world premieres in its 20-year history — and this year revived Conrad Susa's *Transformations* (1973). This chamber-opera setting for eight voices and seven instrumentalists of Anne Sexton's mordant poems drawn from Grimm fairytales has been much revived in the US, and was given here by Colin Graham's English Music Theatre in 1978. The score, using and transforming popular idioms — football songs, dance rhythms, blues, even barbershop quartets — is consistently engaging, and Sexton's verses are sardonically unsettling.

One soloist has to stand out from the ensemble: the Sexton-Mother-Witch character, here entrancingly well sung and played by Sheri Greenawald, whether balefully smoking at her typewriter or sitting beetle-browed in thought in her rocker. I found Keith Warner's production a little over-busy, and the cast was not quite agile enough for the demands made by Ron Howell's choreography. But it's a beautifully crafted music-theatre work, and should be further investigated by smaller companies this side of the pond.

For the rest, *Cosi* couldn't quite survive Richard Bradshaw's dull conducting: I felt that the whole cast could have sung far better with some encouragement from the pit. The audience responded gratefully to Andrew Porter's exemplary translation, as indeed they did to Margaret Stearns's wonderfully fresh version of *Butterfly*: again, no great singing but living drama — and it does make a difference, sitting through this piece with an American audience.

RODNEY MILNES

KEN HOWARD

Take a letter: from left, Matthew Lord, James Butler and Richard Drews with Sheri Greenawald as Anne Sexton in the consistently engaging *Transformations*

Toe-tapping prom

There was a tea-urn in the marquee, sandwiches on the lawn, and a word or two from the vicar. No, not *Albert Herring*, but the opening of the Proms at St Jude's, Hampstead Garden Suburb's little summer festival in Lutyens's fine vernacular-Byzantine pile, and this year in aid of Save the Children.

As a reward for voicing the appeal, Humphrey Burton was allowed to conduct the roistering curtain-raiser, the overture to Ethel Smyth's opera *The Wreckers*. Burton clearly made good use of the time he spent studying Leonard Bernstein's little ways, for he took confident control of the sea-storm, and the woodwind principals of the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra enjoyed their lovelorn solos.

Owain Arwel Hughes took over the baton for the rest of the evening. The music of Erich Korngold, in this his centenary year, is well represented in the festival. The Piano Quintet receives its second UK performance tonight, and on Monday we were treated to the UK premiere of his early *Baby Serenade*. This irresistible five-movement work was written while Korngold was still living in Austria, in honour of the birth of his second son. But Vienna, prophetically, already meets Hollywood (whither the composer was to emigrate) in the exuberant, jazzy opening as *Baby arrives in the world*, before a lullaby worthy of Richard Strauss, a Scherzino paying tribute to Johann, and an Epilogue in which the child sings himself to sleep with a brew of German folk songs.

The CGCO, which adopted a robust approach to the work's audacious meshing of styles, was joined by Robert Max for an equally accomplished account of Korngold's angst-ridden Cello Concerto in C of 1946, the first of the abstract works he began to write once more after the film scores of the war years. Max's eloquent performance should certainly help to reinstate this undeservedly neglected work into the repertoire.

This was an evening of composers who, in one way or another, all stood at something of an angle to the world — and Percy Grainger, after the interval, was no exception. He was shown at his most eccentrically imaginative in the orchestral and choral versions (with the Joyful Company of Singers) of no fewer than 15 folk song settings. If the orchestra had perhaps underestimated both the difficulty and the length of its selection, the sheer panache of Hughes's conducting ensured that toes tapped all the way from *Molly on the Shore* to *Handel in the Strand*.

HILARY FINCH

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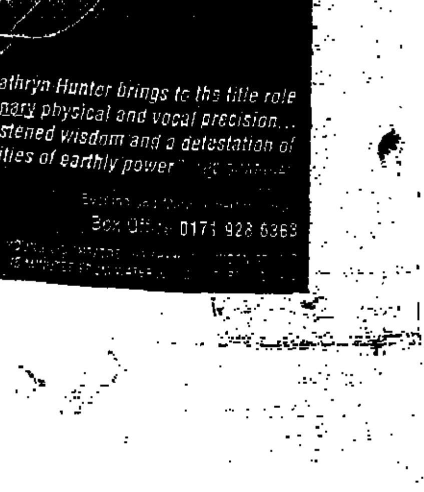

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Glorious singing to raise a roof

CONCERTS

Jephtha
Westminster Abbey

OF MORE than 150 museums dedicated to individual composers throughout Europe, few are to be found in England, and none is in London. Hence the interest in creating a Handel House in the Mayfair dwelling — at 25, Brook Street — where he lived for more than 30 years. This performance of Handel's last oratorio, *Jephtha*, was mounted in aid of the Handel House Trust, with the highest ticket prices reflecting the charitable nature of the event.

Westminster Abbey was pretty well full, although those seated outside the central core experienced little more than a wash of sound, albeit a glorious noise. It is worth remembering that Handel's oratorios were originally performed in theatres, where the impact would undoubtedly have been more immediate, especially as regards the audibility of the text.

In a fascinating essay in the programme book, Ruth Smith summarised the ways in which the audience of Handel's day would have responded to the Reverend Thomas Morell's libretto, and the concerns that lay behind his adaptation of the story of the Israelite leader who sacrifices his only daughter's life through a rash promise to an apparently unforgiving God.

Morell's moderately "happy ending" scenario (Iphis, the daughter, is not condemned to death but to perpetual virginity) creates problems of credibility which could have seriously undermined the drama of the oratorio were it not for the strength of Handel's music, particularly the impressive, unpredictable choruses.

The title role was taken by the tenor Nigel Robson, who has already sung it many times for John Eliot Gardiner. He has evolved his own, very individual interpretation which is never less than unsettling and often memorable for its insight into the equivocal character of Jephtha. Robson's rendition of the celebrated accompanied recitative, *Deeper and deeper still*, was dramatically powerful; indeed, rhetoric was all, sometimes creating problems of ensemble, sometimes covering technical limitations, but deeply compelling.

Robson was supported by highly polished playing from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the well-disciplined Abbey choir and a starry team of soloists, all of whom brought almost equally strong interpretations to bear on their roles. Emma Kirkby was a fresh-voiced but increasingly wise and serious Iphis, Della Jones a too often chesty but nevertheless appropriately intense Storgè and David Wilson-Johnson a vocally authoritative Zebul. Michael Chance, as Hamor, phrased exquisitely. Martin Neary was clearly most at ease with the choir at full pelt in those remarkable choruses.

TESS KNIGHTON

Kindred spirits

Dumay/Pires
Stationers' Hall

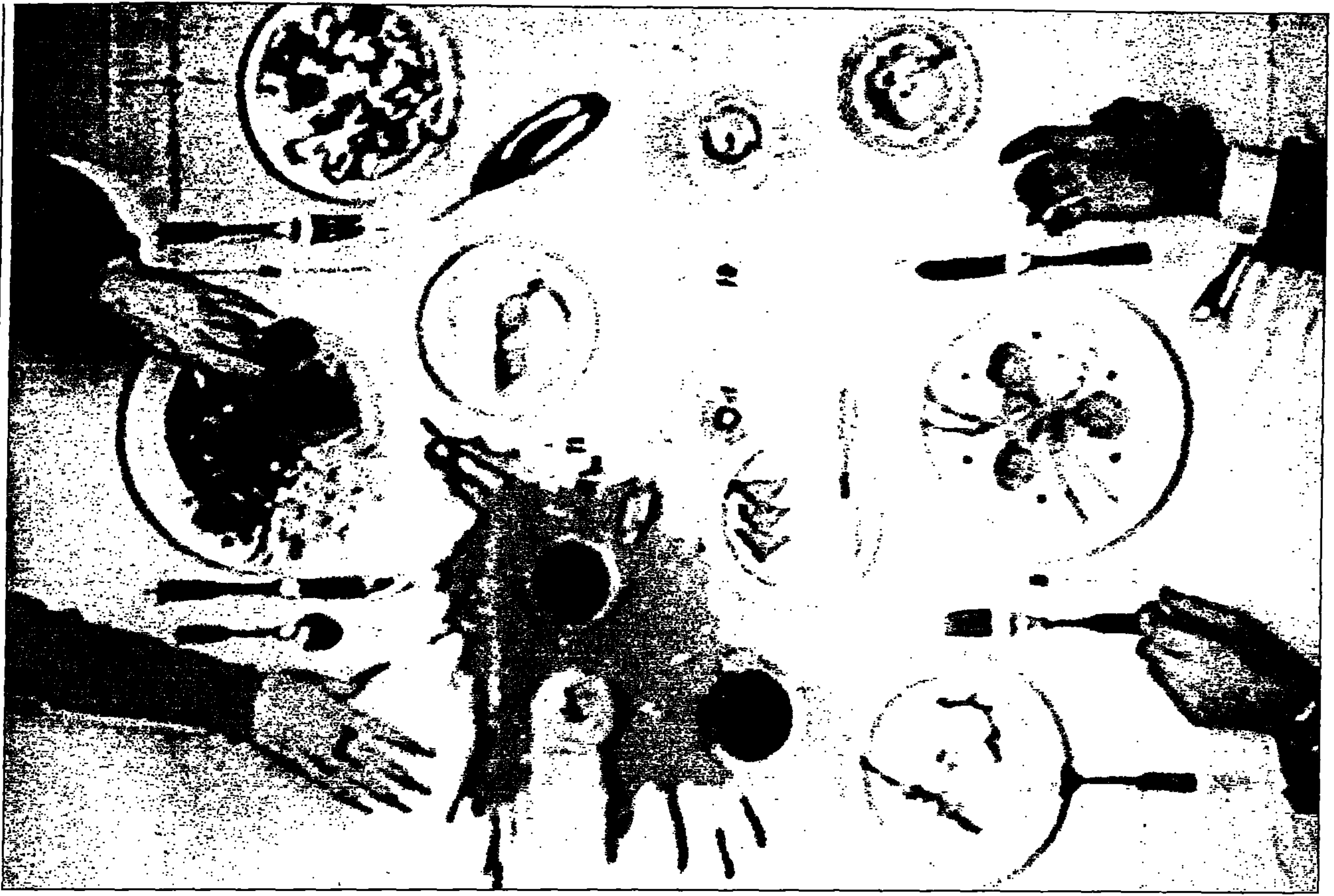
IN THE first of two programmes for the City of London Festival, Augustin Dumay and the Portuguese-born Maria Joao Pires were a duo of strong and appealing character. They were perhaps at their best in the final work, an account of Beethoven's often startling Violin Sonata Op 30 No 2, that found them responsive to one another on equal terms — even if Beethoven did call it a Sonata for Piano and Violin, rather than the other way around.

They plunged into a vehement and passionate account of the opening movement, as if concerned for us to know that the composer was here exploring new territory. Rhythmic stresses, at first peremptory, became warmly expressive in the Adagio, and then a literally off-beat stimulus in the Scherzo. The finale was forcefully driven, but always imbued with a sense of purpose and a spirit of exhilaration.

In the warmth and elegance of this ancient livery hall, a perfect dimension for chamber music, the pianist is able to sound lyrical as well as forceful and the violinist made much of his clear articulation. All the more unexpected, then, that Debussy's Sonata earlier in the programme should have sounded strangely cursory, without taking enough account of the music's rapidly shifting moods and fragility of character.

At the outset, though, the Three Romances, Op 94, of Schumann found the performers in ideal rapport to realise the music's eloquent feeling, in a gentle association of easeful violin and beautifully shaded piano. The Second Romance came across as a song without words rising to a passionate proclamation and then reverting to the opening. And, for good measure, there was Ravel's *Tzigane* to display a spirited virtuosity before the interval was taken.

NOEL GOODWIN



Dinner for two with poison in mind: visitors to the Barbican show can ring the changes with the unseen diners in *Indigestion*, a video enigma by Diller and Scofidio (1995)

Games with a magic edge

VISUAL ART: Of mice, men and machines — **Isabel Carlisle** on a show at the Barbican that plays ingenious tricks with computers and reality

Last autumn the Barbican Art Gallery mounted an exhibition which went largely unreviewed in the national press. As a kaleidoscope of the style essentials of urban youth culture *Jam* was hard to pin down, but immensely popular — of 40,000 visitors, 68 per cent were aged 15 to 24. Not so much an exhibition as an event, it pulled together fashion (including Alexander McQueen), club music, design in all its computer-age manifestations, and magazines such as *The Face* and *i-D*. *Jam* was about a scene on the move, retaining its subversiveness by being one jump ahead of the talent-hungry corporate giants, and it put the Barbican on the map for a new, young audience.

Serious Games looks set to pull the *Jam* crowd back in. It takes us into another rapidly developing cutting-edge world, this time of art, interaction and technology. It is both the limitation and the excitement of these works that they come into being only through human intervention: eye contact is not enough. High claims have been made for interactive art and art generated by computers and by virtual reality — principally that they make us rethink what art is all about. *Serious Games* has picked the best of the artists working in these new media, and it becomes clear that the most successful are those who deliver what human beings have always wanted from art: insight, ideas, beauty and magic.

This exhibition is not just for computer whizzes: there are clear instructions on how to use computer mice and trackballs to make the art happen. *Indigestion* by Diller and Scofidio uses video projection on to a flat table-top to create a dinner party for two where the host first blackmails and then poisons the guest. Only arms, hands and food are visible. The game is to change around the character stereotypes by pressing a button and listening to how they engage in conversation. A low-class masculine woman, for instance, sitting opposite a high-class effeminate man engage in subtly different verbal sparring from other combinations and permutations. It's ingenious, if finally stultifying — but then, that's life.

Bill Seaman's triple video projection on to a long black wall invites you to highlight words and then click on them, which in turn prompts new video images (of urban landscapes and of a couple). The idea is to make a poem from assemblages of words. The problem is that the mind moves faster than this technology, and a very slow poem made by you with somebody else's words is frustrating. In contrast, making music with *Resonance of 4* by Toshio Iwai is captivating. By clicking on squares in the four chequer boards projected on to the floor notes start to play up and down the scale. The idea is to end up with four-part harmony, if your fellow visitors are so inclined.

Rehearsal of Memory, made by the British artist Harwood in collaboration with patients of Ashworth Mental Hospital, is the most thoughtful work here. Images of the patients' naked bodies, made by pressing up against digital scanners and then projected on to a screen, are overlaid with single words like "prongs", or tattoos such as a skeletal Old Father Time. There is autobiographical text as well that tells appalling stories of self-inflicted wounds. Clicking on a word, scar or tattoo triggers new stories, and the sounds of the voices mingle with those of water, heartbeats and of a shutter sliding violently in a door.

The one virtual reality work, *Osmose* by Char Davies, is likely to be the favourite "game" in the show. Putting on a special helmet and a sleeveless jacket with sensor pads controlled by breathing in or out, you enter a virtual 3-D world. Inspired by scuba diving, the sensation is like flying, or falling through water in shimmering, crystalline surroundings. First engulfed in oak leaves, you drift down past a bare tree to a forest floor and then through it, so that looking up you see roots, pass streams of fireflies and then down again between huge panels of illuminated words.

Virtual reality worlds created by artists have become far more sophisticated in the last few years. This one may still look crude, but achieves a suspension of disbelief that is literally transporting.

- Serious Games *(in collaboration with the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle) is at the Barbican Art Gallery until Aug 17. To book for a session of* Osmose *telephone 0171-638 8891*

THEATRE: In Leeds, 17th-century French comedy updated; a Peter Moffat premiere in Croydon

Molière à la mode

Don Juan
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

When Molière's *La Malade imaginaire* was presented here last year, in a fresh translation by Edward Kemp, the production appeared to have moved rather ponderously until the interval energised cast and audience alike.

This, as it happened, occurred at the theatre bar, not through judicious spiking of the drinks, but because the director, Toby Jones, whirled his actors through a performance of an early Molière comedy on a similar theme, spoken at lightning speed in ridiculously basic French. After that the second half of the main production whizzed past, and everyone had a good time.

Unfortunately for Jones's new production of *Don Juan*, no equivalent early treatment of the Lothario theme has survived in Molière's bottom drawer. And so the interval in *Don Juan* is occupied in the customary manner, leaving the story of the Don to fizzle out without a life-saving fillip.

A procession of visitors interrupts his preparation for supper with undramatic exaltations to mend his ways, and when he is finally carried off, ways unmended, by figures from a Mexican Day of the Dead procession, it is impossible to care, one way or the other. The episode of the poor man who won't be bribed to blaspheme succeeds in a tenth of the time that the other scenes take to fail.

Kemp has relocated the story to some early 20th-century, Latin American province which Angela Davies's arresting set makes into the last outpost of the civilised world. Against a turquoise sky, an isolated house tilts backwards against the raised front of a giant sledge. Hauled forward and opened out, it becomes the room of an inn; strapped up like a parcel it can be shoved to the back of the stage.

And yet, interesting object though it is, and the excuse for jokey scene-changing, the quaintness creates a further impediment to the successful revival of such an archaic and ramshackle play. To place it in the homeland of magic realism is like icing a cake that is already iced: the Don's credo is realist, the nodding statue clearly magic, and for a few hours we are ready to embrace both.

The juvenile arguments for and against Heaven, Hell and the like can never work in a production where trousers have replaced buckle shoes and breeches. And so the response of Martin Marquez's suavely handsome Don to Sganarelle — a comically fawning performance by Patrick Brennan — is to rely on expressions of scorn, reserving passion for his tirade against, but somehow for, hypocrisy.

What the Jones/Kemp partnership does best is the idiotic lingo for the peasant scenes, an alliterative mishmash of kids' talk and cod Spanish, which is all the funnier for being spoken as if it is the proper way to talk. Contrast this with the over-extended chase sequence accompanied by enough gunshots to settle a medium-sized revolution.

JEREMY KINGSTON

St. John's, Smith Square, SW1 Saturday 28 June 7.00pm

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Douglas Young World Première
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Poet cornered

The Blue Garden
Warehouse, Croydon

A YOUNG writer sits and stews in his old leather armchair. The trappings of privilege hang about his neck like an albatross. This is Raymond Apple, a romantic poet who inflicts his tortured thoughts on his doting wife, Sophie, in a barely coherent mumble. The Second World War rumbles beyond his reach, beyond his ability to land a commission.

When Peter Kramer, a German deserter, turns up bearing a copy of Raymond's poems, the mood of Peter Moffat's new but strangely mouldy play lifts, slightly. Sophie exposes Frank Kovaks's sensitive German to something blue in her garden, her delphiniums. Kramer duly falls in love, and Robert Reynolds's Raymond looks on and applauds.

Let's leave that scenario and move 50 years forward. Here son William takes up where Raymond left off. He sits in the same armchair, aged 60 going on 98, while an obnoxious American biographer tries to pry the feeble tragedy of his father's life from a single poem. To say it gets more exciting than this would be overdoing it. We never hear the poem. The American journalist, played with charmless persistence by Jan Waters, tells us that her mother died in Auschwitz. Ted Craig's production seems to be crawling inch by inch towards some sort of incestuous revelation. But Moffat deprives us of even that doubtful pleasure.

Occasionally, when Sophie speaks from behind a mesh screen, we get a sense of the past intruding on the present, giving the stilted William scenario a spin which it fails to take advantage of. The interest in how the small truths about the Apple love triangle are misinterpreted by the present is upstaged by a morbid fascination in whether Chris Matthew's repressed William and Waters's brash journalist are ever going to have a tumble in the delphiniums.

As the only one who gets a look in on both past and present, Amanda Mealing's self-possessed Sophie remains as inscrutable as the Mona Lisa. She smiles distantly throughout, presumably smug in the knowledge that she has better lines to say than anyone else. But extracting anything beautiful from this compost proves too much even for her. "He went out cawing and flapping like a smashed-in crow," says Sophie about her husband's last sighting. It must have been for fish and chips.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

POWER TRANSFERRED: THE TIMES ON THE HANDOVER OF HONG KONG

Looking forward, looking back

Jonathan Mirsky on an examination of Hong Kong's Chinese future and a recollection of its British past

In early 1946 George Kitson, head of the Foreign Office's China Department and a man of imagination, wrote a 14 page position paper for the Cabinet on Hong Kong.

"Supposing the Chinese had taken [the Isle of Wight] against our will 100 years ago and covered it with pagodas, etc, and developed it by means which they had invented and we had not learned to use, doing all this for their own purposes, although talking a great deal about the material advantages to the United Kingdom and all the time emphasising the value of this haven of good government, a protection against insecurity, in the Isle of Wight. Even if they had created a heaven on earth in that small island we should have only one feeling about it. We should want it back."

Yes. Yet later that same year Mao Zedong said: "I am not interested in Hong Kong; the Communist Party is not interested in Hong Kong: it has never been the subject of any discussion amongst us." But Mao added: "Perhaps 10, 20 or 30 years hence we may ask for a discussion regarding its return ... " Thirty-three years later, in 1979, as Mr Tsang records, Sir Murray MacLehose, then Hong Kong's Governor, asked a seemingly innocent question about the renewal of New Territories commercial leases and startledDeng Xiaoping into considering Hong Kong's retrocession. This story, long-since confirmed by others in the room and only a few weeks ago by a senior Chinese official, gives the impression that the Chinese might have left the city alone for some undetermined period; I suspect this is unfair to Lord MacLehose.

I say that because of the brilliant title and its underlying concept of Mr Tsang's excellent book. (He has been the director of Oxford's Hong Kong project for more than ten years.) Since 1841 bits of Hong Kong had been ripped from China by force. But its greatest part, the New Territories, came into the Empire in the 1898 leasehold, foreshadowing the handover this July 1."When the British acquired the New Territories in 1898," Mr Tsang writes, "they also unwittingly made an appointment with China over the future of Hong Kong as a whole."

Throughout the 20th century, Mr Tsang observes, the relative power of Britain and China slowly reversed: the turning point may have come in the rapid, brutal Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in 1941. The myth of white superiority vanished and even long-time champions of imperialism like Leo Amory at the India Office wondered if the Empire was finished. British officials in China were confronted by Chiang Kaishek about the future of Hong Kong. But Chiang had to save himself from the Communists when the war ended and Hong Kong went to the back of the nationalist burner.

At first the Communists too, as seen in Mao's underplaying of Hong Kong's importance, concentrated on making their revolution. But by the late Seventies, as Mr Tsang shows, an irony of their post-Mao openness to the world was their growing determination to retrieve Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

HONG KONG
An Appointment with China
By Steve Yui-sang Tsang
I. B. Taurus, £10.95
ISBN 1 86064 311 6

HONG KONG REMEMBERS
Edited by Sally Blyth and Ian Wotherspoon
OUP, £17.99
ISBN 0 19 587768 3

All this Mr Tsang tells well, anchoring his text until the late Seventies on official documents. Then an odd thing happens: because he has interviewed 40 leading British figures of the last phase of Hong Kong history and stored their stories away in some Oxford vault not to be used for years, Mr Tsang pretends he has put what he knows first-hand out of his mind. Therefore he appears to depend on secondary accounts, especially for British-Chinese negotiations since 1980, which are very cagey about their sources; this makes it possible for those involved to deny the accounts. But Mr Tsang also makes sensitive use of the published accounts of Sir Percy Cradock, who directed the crucial negotiations of 1982-84 and likes to describe his manoeuvres as "finesses", and Xu Jiatun, a key Peking official in Hong Kong in the same period, who later defected to California and like Sir Percy portrays himself as cunning and wise.

His contacts in the city of his birth also enable Mr Tsang to describe better than anyone heretofore in English the workings of the super-secret "Hong Kong and Macau Work Committee of the Communist Party in Hong Kong" with its high-ranking status in Peking, its State Security mechanism, and its tentacles reaching into banking, commerce and united front organisatons. (Hong Kong Government officials, including Governor Chris Patten, declined even to confirm, until last week, that this apparatus exists.) One pities men like Sir Percy as they confronted Chinese players in Beijing and Hong Kong who not only held all the cards but had marked them too.

In the junk harbour at Aberdeen, southwest Hong Kong, 1952

Mr Tsang has no illusions about Beijing's lack of understanding of what makes Hong Kong work, its suspicion and hatred of the colony's democrats, and of its intention to meddle. At least three of Chief Executive-designate's Tung Chee-hwa's closest advisers are party members, he surmises. (Local Communist Party members bear this out.) But he is very hard too on Martin Lee, Hong Kong's much-admired democratic leader, for fanning Beijing's fear of subversion in Hong Kong, and is even harder on Governor Patten. The Governor's modest democratic legislation, which Mr Tsang says Mr Patten imagined Beijing would grudgingly accept instead of totally reversing, "turned out to be as clever as waving a red flag at a bull one is trying to induce to leave a china shop".

Mr Tsang's conclusion is slightly modified gloom: in July, he contends, there will be an arranged marriage. The bride is miserable and her husband a bully. "It may be unrealistic for the wife to hope that her married life will be 'happy ever after', but it does not need to end in utter disaster."

Hong Kong Remembers is a potentially ghastly book, the kind with gag-making memories of the hazily recalled Raj. This one, however, by two long-term expatriates, is quite wonderful, stuffed with revealing interviews with Hong Kong people, Chinese and British, with long memories indeed, but far from rosy ones. There is one with a New Territories villager who fought the Japanese, joined the party, served as a minor official in north China for 30 years, and now lives in retirement in his native place, where he insists "Why should I be British? I was born in Hong Kong: I am Chinese. So is Hong Kong."

The best of the interviews — the ones with past Governors and with Mr Patten are unrevealing, assured, and conflicting — is with Anna Wu, a well-known lawyer and ex-member of the Legislative Council. Ms Wu, for years a celebrated fighter for civil rights, says the colonial government "would not tolerate a different point of view which might endanger its power and authority". The authorities, she says, formed a secret committee, which included Special Branch, to maintain surveillance of admirable people like herself and her husband, the journalist Frank Ching. (The Security Branch now claims its records of this repulsive practice were scrapped.) One "disastrous" result of the colonial government's fear of democrats and its efforts to suppress them, says Ms Wu, is that after the handover Beijing will insist it is doing nothing the British didn't do. An additional disaster, she says, is that there exists no firmly established "stable and mature alternative to British colonial rule".

Like Steve Tsang and his forced marriage, Ms Wu feels bad about the future: "You suddenly reach a dead end, and that's how I've felt for a long time ... A political career has simply not been an option in Hong Kong. It has never been for anybody."

Tiananmen Square, 1993, from *Marc Riboud in China*, (Thames and Hudson, £35)

Rough and ready to go

James Pringle

CHINA
The Rough Guide
By Jeremy Atiyah, David Leffman and Simon Lewis
Rough Guides, £15.99
ISBN 1 85828 225 X

Travelling in China is often not much fun. Recently first-class passengers on a Chinese airline were handed economy-class food trays, then later saw the stewardesses scoffing what was clearly their first-class food. When questioned, one hostess replied haughtily: "We should have better food — after all, we're working."

And given how difficult it is to do anything in China, it is often easiest to book a package tour. Yet package tourists follow a tightly supervised schedule which isolates them from the population. None of this is to say that China is not worth visiting. The individual traveller faces all sorts of frustrations, but every time one is about to give up on China something positive happens that makes it all seem worthwhile. If you are not going to China on a package, and are not wealthy enough to be cushioned from China's rigours, you need a guidebook. Independent-minded travellers are left with the *Lonely Planet* or the *Rough Guide to China*. Borders are open and visas are readily distributed, but the standard tourist "sights" — the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Army — are few, considering the size of the country.

"Indeed," says the *Rough Guide*, "historic architecture is scant ... Chinese towns and cities lack that sense of history so palpable in the great cities of Europe or the Middle East. The Communists, like all dynasties before them, simply destroyed earlier showpieces."

The *Rough Guide's* introduction to Shanghai is especially pungent. Qingdao is on the mark: "The water is like Chinese soup — murky and warm with unidentifiable things floating on it, so swimming is not recommended." But sometimes it misses. Thus Weihai (on the Shangdon coast) "has nothing to recommend it". On the contrary, this former British concession, given up in 1930, is fascinating for British visitors, especially the island of Liugong, with its old British houses.

And Wutai Shan, one of China's four Buddhist mountains, rewards the long bus journey there "with monks, fortune-tellers and pilgrims outnumbering tourists, with a peaceful spiritual tone". When this traveller was there last year Wutai Shan was an inferno of karaoke clubs. It was difficult to find much that was spiritual.

But, when the *Rough Guide* comes to Tibet, it tells it like it is. Tibet is a "sad and subjugated colony of China". Tibet's past "has been tragic, its present is painful and the future looks bleak". Yet it rounds out the overall scene by adding: "Many of the Chinese who have come to Tibet are poor people trying to make a life for themselves and their families. They may have little knowledge of the wider political implications of their presence here." True, and in this kind of comment the *Rough Guide* fulfils its promise of presenting China in its contemporary context.

Red badge of courage

The Cultural Revolution did not just shape a generation of Chinese. It scorched their lives and seared their minds, shattering millions of families and implanting a cynicism about authority that not even the horrors of civil war, foreign occupation or the famines inflicted by Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward had aroused.

No two testimonies of this tumult and its consequences could be more different than those of Rae Yang and Wei Jingsheng. Yang's *Spider Eaters* (University of California Press, £20.95; ISBN 0 520 20480 8) is a depressing journey to disillusion: Wei's, *The Courage to Stand Alone* (Viking, £16.99; ISBN 0 670 87249 0), is a pungent and unfailingly brave celebration of what he calls "the depth, force, and enduring tradition of humanism in Chinese culture".

The title Yang gives to her memoir is taken from the saying of Lu Xun that history owes a debt to those who, by eating poisonous spiders, "died so that now we know better". Bitterness is her theme. Despite the *faux naif* style, there is a riveting directness about her account of what made of her a pitiless young Red Guard capable of beating class enemies half to death, and how she gradually realised to what point she and other educated youngsters had been duped, exploited and finally left to rot.

Even then, she says, she would not have left China in 1981, "had not Deng Xianping not shut down Democracy Wall [and] arrested Wei Jingsheng".

It is typical of Wei Jingsheng that he can find something positive to say even about the Cultural Revolution. Whatever those chaotic and cruel years cost his generation, he writes, "we made up for it in mental experience".

Wei Jingsheng: unbroken

Personal bitterness is absent from this remarkable, painful and ultimately exhilarating book. Wei, who probably does not even know of the publication of this collection, had no opportunity to choose the book's title. But if he had, it would probably have spoken not about his own struggle, but of his hopes for China.

That hope should survive what he has endured is extraordinary. His health broken by appalling ill-treatment, this man of 47 is back in solitary confinement at the Nanpu New Life Salt Works, due for release only in 2009.

He has already served nearly 15 years in prisons and labour camps for the "crime" of declaring, in his famous poster on Democracy Wall in 1978, reproduced here, that Deng Xiaoping's "Four Modernisations" would fail to transform China without a "fifth modernisation", democracy. For democracy, he wrote a decade later from prison, was the most powerful tool against corruption and the abuse of power, "more iron than an iron fist".

Courageous work has been written from solitary confinement, but rarely is it mixed with such unquenchable engagement with the outside world. The theme of these missives is the grand theme of China today: it is that the "social upheaval" which both China's leaders and its people fear "begins with confused thinking, and confused thinking stems from unreasonable behaviour on the part of those in power". In saying the unsayable, he has broken no written Chinese law; but he has broken every unwritten one in the book. It is China's tragedy that this is precisely why he has again been silenced by nervous authority, this time perhaps until death.

ROSEMARY RIGHTER

Experience a better guide than hope

Percy Cradock

THE GREAT WALL AND THE EMPTY FORTRESS
China's Search for Security
By Andrew J. Nathan and Robert S. Ross
Norton, £22
ISBN 0 393 04076 3

THE LEGACY OF TIANANMEN
China in Disarray
By James Miles
The University of Michigan Press, £13.95
ISBN 0 472 10731 3

The size, the strangeness and the growing strength of China fascinate the outside world. Fascinate, confuse and alarm. Serious observers now write about the coming threat from China; and even the less apocalyptic reporting on the country in the Western media tends to be partial and emotional. The fact that this is the last great surviving Communist system is some explanation, but hardly sufficient.

In such a situation, objective analysis of what the Chinese are up to becomes essential; and the book by Andrew Nathan and Robert Ross meets the need exactly. This is a dispassionate survey of Chinese foreign policy, which sees China engaged, like any other state, in the pursuit of national interest and security. This is right, for, apart from a few hysterical years under Mao, China's external policy has been a model of *realpolitik*.

The authors acknowledge China's strengths, but, unusually, also examine China's weaknesses: a vast, poor population, growing too fast; a shortage of good agricultural land; long, not easily defensible borders; powerful and unreliable neighbours; continuing technological backwardness and, in consequence, relative military inadequacy. The Chinese Air Force, for example, is apparently inferior in quality even to Taiwan's and the technological gap is widening rather than diminishing. In the past a sense of vulnerability has often compelled China to resort to stratagems that conveyed the illusion that it was stronger than it really was. Today it faces hard choices if it is to come to terms with an international order dominated by the United States.

Nathan and Ross rightly see the current task for the West as the peaceful assimilation of China in that international order. They prescribe a cautious approach, a judicious mixture of accommodation, persuasion and resistance. In their view, the old Cold War with China in the Fifties may have been unavoidable; but a new Cold War would be an immense error.

Wise advice, but it does demand a detachment and consistency in policy rarely forthcoming in Western democratic life. The Sino-US relationship lies at the heart of the problem. United States policy on China is constantly buffeted by cross-winds: domestic pressures; the American disposition to moralise; above all, Congress. What is worse, under weaker leadership on the Chinese side, the strategic quality which has hitherto marked their approach may prove to be lacking. The moral of the book is the need for detached, consistent, unpoliticised thinking and practice in foreign policy. Professionals will devoutly agree; but the politicians do not always oblige.

Two small corrections: China's population is not "ethnically diverse": 95 per cent are Han Chinese. It is misleading to say that Britain and China held talks over Hong Kong "without representation of the residents of Hong Kong". The Governor and his political adviser were leading members of the delegation: and the Governor's Executive Council, drawn from local residents, were privy to every move.

James Miles writes with a narrower focus, about the Chinese domestic scene. He was the BBC's correspondent in Beijing from 1988 to 1994: and his judgment is inevitably coloured by his experience of Tiananmen in June 1989. He gives a good account of the aftermath. He goes on to describe Deng Xiaoping's visit to southern China in 1992, which gave a new impetus to economic reform, and gives a vivid picture of the many unlovely features of the divided, acquisitive society which reform and the "socialist market economy" have brought about: the growing inequalities, the endemic corruption, the peasant discontents, the folk migrations from the land to the cities, the troubles of the loss-making state enterprises.

As his subtitle indicates, Miles thinks things cannot hold together under such strains and, like many Western reporters, he sees judgment day for the Communist regime as coinciding with the death of Deng Xiaoping. "Deng's death is likely to lift the lid on this cauldron of discontent." The trouble is we have since lived through judgment day almost without noticing it, and China goes on much as before.

This is not to deny the tensions below the surface of Chinese life, or the problems facing the Chinese leaders, as they strive to direct a vast country in a state of change. But there are clearly positive factors at work: among them, rising living standards, a widespread fear of instability, a deep sense of national pride. They should have been brought into the equation. Whatever we may think of the present regime, it would be prudent to assume it will be around for some time. Hopes and wishes are not the best guides.

In his *Advancement of Learning*, Francis Bacon, reflecting on the political analysts of his day, commended the Italian school, because they wrote "of what men do, not what they ought to do". Nathan and Ross clearly belong to the first category; Miles has strong leanings to the second. Nathan and Ross have the advantage.

Sir Percy Cradock was Ambassador to China from 1978-84 and the Prime Minister's foreign policy adviser from 1984 to 1992. His book, Experiences of China, *was published in 1994.*

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هكذا من الاصل

Ian McIntyre makes his way through an exhaustive biography of Anton Chekhov, whose letters reveal an uninhibited spirit

The doctor and the details

It was not a long life, and it was not on the surface at least a particularly eventful one. Chekhov was born in Taganrog, on the Sea of Azov. The families of both parents had bought their way from serfdom into the merchant class. By the time he qualified as a doctor in 1884, he was already well-known for his short stories, and he was taken up by the press baron Suvorin, who owned the pro-government *Novoe vremya*, then Russia's largest daily paper.

He travelled to Sakhalin, the Russian Botany Bay, and published an investigation of convict life; together with Tolstoy and Gorky, he came to be regarded as the conscience of the nation. He bought an estate, quarrelled with Suvorin over Dreyfus, turned his mind increasingly to the theatre.

Petersburg audiences could be rough, and had been known to pelt the cast with apples, binoculars and galoshes. The first night of *The Seagull* was a disaster. "If I live another 700 years," he said, "I won't let the theatre have another play." *The foundation of the Moscow Art* Theatre in 1898 changed all that. The play was triumphantly revived, and in the six years that were left to him, Chekhov produced the three other masterpieces of his maturity.

ANTON CHEKHOV
A Life
By Donald Rayfield
HarperCollins, £25
ISBN 0 002 55503 4

He lived for most of his life with his parents, with a possessive sister and with various more or less delinquent brothers; there was a long succession of mistresses, and a late and far from idyllic marriage to the actress Olga Knipper. When he died in Germany in 1904, the body was sent home in a refrigerated railcar. Gorky was indignant. "Anton who squirmed at anything vile and vulgar," he wrote to his wife, "was brought in a car 'for transporting fresh oysters.'" A crowd of 4,000 marched to the Novodevichy cemetery. People climbed trees and broke crosses in the fight for a place. Chaliapin burst into tears and cursed them: "And he lived for these bastards," he cried.

In some ways Chekhov's life resembled one of his own plays — not much of a plot, lots of atmosphere, plenty of cameo roles for character actors. When he bought his mother false teeth in Petersburg, she refused to wear them because they had been made on the 13th of the month. When his father found a rat in a barrel of olive oil he was "too honest to say nothing, too mean to pour the oil away, too lazy to boil and refilter it". Father Pokrovsky was called in to conduct a service of consecration.

Chekhov: unidyllic life

We meet the Petersburg editor Nikolai Leikin, squat and hairy, who hung his Christmas tree with raw meat for his two hounds, and the chief of police at Tomsk who took Chekhov round the local brothels. In Yalta we encounter the dentist Ostrovsky, who deserts Chekhov in mid-operation for his duties in the Jewish cemetery. In Blagoveshchensk there is a Japanese prostitute, who impresses Chekhov by her lack of coyness and her professional skill: "You feel you are not having intercourse," he wrote to Suvorin, "but taking part in a top level equitation class."

Rayfield's trawl of the sources has been impressively exhaustive. In the Russian State Library there are 7,000 letters addressed to Chekhov, half of which have never been referred to in print. Almost 5,000 of his own letters are in the public domain, although a 1968 Central Committee resolution forbade the publication of certain passages.

Rayfield has not felt bound by the Soviet (and Russian) convention of not "discrediting or vulgarising", but the restoration of previously bowdlerised passages in the correspondence does not hugely modify our picture of Chekhov. Most of them are simply uninhibited references to bodily function or to sexual performance. "I have haemorrhoids, awful, like grapes, growing in bunches from my behind," he tells his friend Franz Schechtel. When Leikin writes boastfully of his potency as both man and editor, Chekhov observes drily: "A penis that smashes walnuts as a measure of editorial ability could be a fine theme for a dissertation."

Rayfield himself has a good sardonic eye, and I frequently wished he had spared us some of the detail and let us hear more of his own voice. He describes a schoolmaster whose punishments included strapping boys to a stepladder to be spat at by the class. "The fees, however, were modest," Rayfield adds, "and the boys needed no uniform." He also has a good line in end-notes (I was sorry they were not footnotes) — "Koumiss is fermented mare's milk: it tastes like a mixture of champagne, chalk and rancid butter."

"All biography is fiction," Rayfield asserts, "but fiction that has to fit the documented facts." It is not a formula he observes. Rather does he pile up nuggets of information like skulls and bones in some vast, chronologically ordered charnel-house. He contends that to write a full biography would take a lifetime longer than Chekhov's own. That would be to pursue a will o' the wisp. Inside this fat new life there is a better book struggling to get out — less choked by detail, more varied in pace and characterised by more light and shade.

Truth far worse than fiction

Louis de Bernières abhors the deadly trade that threatens so many Colombians

JULIO ETCHART, IMPACT

Márquez's account exposes a biblical holocaust that has been consuming Colombia for more than 20 years: kids deal crack and glue on the streets of Medellín, 1989

When this book was first launched in Colombia, in 1996, Márquez announced that not one single word of it was fiction. Furthermore, he stated that reporting was his favourite kind of work. Moreover, when it comes to reporting, Márquez is so scrupulous with the truth as to be quite old-fashioned; one of his earliest works, *The Story Of A Shipwrecked Sailor*, unearthed a truth so embarrassing to the then dictatorship that Márquez got into considerable trouble, and the newspaper which had published it was closed down.

I mention all this because the blurb on the English edition of *News* disingenuously makes it out to be a novel. I am aware that Márquez's fiction sells far better than his non-fiction, but I do not think that it does a service to Márquez himself for the publishers to flag this book as something which Márquez explicitly states that it is not. Had he decided to write it as a novel, it would have been different.

NEWS OF A KIDNAPPING
By Gabriel Garcia Márquez
Cape, £16.99
ISBN 0 224 05002 8

Let us move on to the justified enthusiasm, however. The book has been admirably translated by Edith Grossman into excellently smooth English, although (and here I acknowledge my perversity) I would have preferred it rendered with more fidelity to the original Castilian word-order, which is more elegant, and I shudder when confronted by split infinitives on such a scale. Aficionados of Márquez's style will nonetheless be pleased by the recurrence of many of his favourite turns of phrase, and his love for words like "apocalyptic", "prodigal" and "improbable". His prose is satisfying and refreshing, as when he describes the presidential plane as "a decrepit Fokker that flew only by the grace of God after almost 30 years of forced labour", or when he has somebody singing "... salsa, vallenatos, and bambucos all day at the top of her lungs and with the ear of an artilleryman ...".

Good writing is not what is important here, however, because the book is about the "biblical holocaust that has been consuming Colombia for more than 20 years". Pablo Escobar, then head of the cartel in Medellín — "a city martyrised by violence" — had made so many enemies that he realised that he could only be safe, and continue to run his business, if he was in prison under the protection of the State. The one obstacle to his surrender was that Colombia has an extradition agreement with the United States, where Escobar knew that he would be imprisoned for numerous consecutive lifetimes. He therefore kidnapped several well-known people, and would not surrender them until he had guarantees of non-extradition. The book retells, with a most painstaking attention to the smallest detail, the story of their kidnapping and captivity. One harmless old woman, Marina Montoya, is held for a while, and then shot.

There are, of course, lighter moments, as when President Gaviria remarks: "I was the only Colombian who didn't have a President to complain to," but on the whole it is hard to escape the feeling that Márquez has written this book in a mood of tightly suppressed rage. Mitigating episodes of heroism, defiance and love cannot, for example, prevent us from sharing with the author his angry astonishment at the superstitious religiosity of the assassins, who see no contradiction between awe-struck faith in the Virgin and complete immorality. We learn of the teenage guards' extreme fatalism, all of them knowing that they will never grow old, most of them unhinged by alcohol, tedium, futility and cocaine. Escobar threatened to blow up the entire city of Cartagena, and Márquez, who normally leaves his moral judgments to one side, describes him as a man who had a "total inability to distinguish good from evil".

The narcotraffickers, because of their incalculable wealth, were able to corrupt and destroy the moral and social fabric of Colombia. They offered "silver or lead" (a bribe or a bullet), and Escobar in particular ran a campaign of terrorism that claimed tens of thousands. The book warns us all of what happens when fantastically easy money falls into the hands of megalomaniacs without moral limits.

Márquez is possibly the most respected man in Colombia, but he has been courageous in publishing this book. Now that the cartels are broken, the cocaine assassins are underemployed. They have linked up with terrorist and revolutionary organisations such as FARC, ELN and EPL, who are gradually taking up where the cartels left off, and also diversifying into poppies. There will, needless to say, never be a revolution, but these people have created a tidy business out of applying the skills of their new recruits. Anyone who is even of modest means in Colombia now runs the risk of being kidnapped, and lives in terror. When I was given the Colombian edition by a friend of mine from Cali, she wrote in the front, with absolute seriousness: "Antes de que yo pueda tener una de estas experiencias ..." [Before it happens to me ...] She is no one in particular, but she has an armed bodyguard and is too frightened to go out for a picnic in the country.

What I cannot understand is why Marquez has been so restrained in pointing out who is ultimately responsible for the tormenting of his beautiful and beloved country. Only in one paragraph does he mention it even in passing. The point is that no one would sell cocaine if no one was buying it. The United States will never legalise it, and so it is futile to argue that they should. Let me be explicit: Escobar became possible, countless thousands died horribly, an entire generation of urban teenage boys became assassins and died before they were 20, little girls were abducted from the countryside and gang-raped, because thoughtless, self-indulgent, decadent, overpaid Westerners think that taking cocaine makes parties more amusing. If you use cocaine, dear reader, you are by proxy a kidnapper, a rapist, a torturer, a terrorist and a murderer.

Try composing yourself

Tobias Hill

GRACE NOTES
By Bernard Mac Laverty
Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 04429 X

Grace Notes is a new departure for Bernard Mac Laverty. The protagonist is female (in *Cal* there was one major female character, in *Lamb* none at all); Catherine McKenna is a composer. The novel's first movement takes place in Northern Ireland, like most of Mac Laverty's writing; but the second is set in Scotland. And the chronology of *Grace Notes* is jarred, ending at its middle, while Mac Laverty's writing has tended towards straightforward narratives. The author's first new novel for 14 years demands to be read carefully, just as modern music "demands" to be listened to, although the chronology makes quirky reading first time through.

Music — a life experienced through music, Catherine McKenna's life — shapes the story and fine structure of *Grace Notes*. Sound has been strong in Mac Laverty's writing since the first novel *Lamb*, where coat hangers jangled like "the slow tolling of thin bells". The writer's prose was clean-cut then, and if anything it has been pared down further now. But strong sound images are still present, their poetry enhanced by the bleak, lucid prose.

In *Grace Notes*, music becomes Mac Laverty's central thematic image. This is a story in two movements, and sound is stronger than vision, as if we hear the narrative through the ears of Catherine the musician — Walkmans "sizzled and tished", an old woman whispers "prayers full of esses". The piece opens with the death of Catherine's father, and the funeral is described through its music: "A whole trevally of prayers ... Five times for the Our Father. Fifty times for the Hail Mary ... Like the sparrows earlier in the day. Cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep. A dry sound that needed oil."

Beginning with a death, *Grace Notes* moves upwards towards the birth of Catherine's child and the first broadcast of her music, a piece full of the thunder and "slaps and dunts" of Protestant drums. Like the "thin bells" of *Lamb* with their delicate religious implication, the images in *Grace Notes* are rarely arbitrary. Mac Laverty uses sounds as subtle giveaways of time and place: of the politics, religion and violence of Northern Ireland. Character too is echoed silently in objects — a lorry unburdening itself of a load, just as Catherine unburdens herself of her ghosts through her music and the birth of her child.

One of the accomplishments of *Grace Notes* is Mac Laverty's creation of a complete female narrator and her simple unsentimental story, the baby ("A car alarm that shat and pissed") and its importance to Catherine. But the strongest impression left by *Grace Notes* is that of its central image — of the "notes between notes" which seem to compose themselves: of a life happening while its heroine is busy making other plans. "Do you compose the music or does the music compose you?" Mac Laverty writes. If architecture is frozen music, *Grace Notes* is the literary equivalent, full of its own powerful rhythm.

Tobias Hill's collection of short stories, Skin, is published by Faber, priced £8.99.

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Turner in his grave

Andrew Wilton

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A Life
By James Hamilton
Hodder & Stoughton, £25
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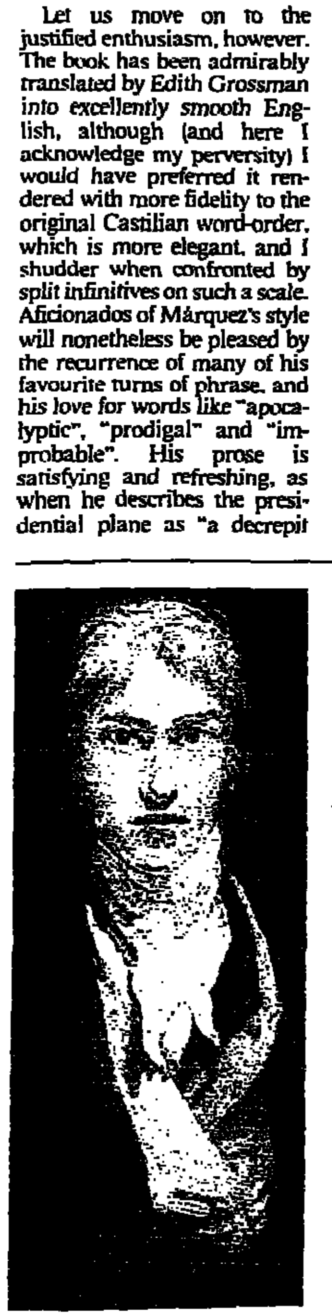

Turner's self-portrait, aged around 25, 1798-1800

YOU WAIT 30 years for one, and then two come along at once. The last "literary" biography of J. M. W. Turner was Jack Lindsay's intelligent, tendentious Marxist interpretation of 1966. Since then, books about Turner the painter have been plentiful, but his life itself has proved elusive, and his first biographer, Walter Thornbury, made a famous hash of it.

The standard biography Thornbury should have written, with Ruskin at his elbows, had to wait until 1939, when the great Turner scholar A. J. Finberg published his exhaustive, if rather dry, account. Finberg thought Turner "a very uninteresting man to write about. There is nothing picturesque, romantic or exciting either in his character or in his life." Yet reading Thornbury one feels that, in the right hands, that life — thoroughly Dickensian — could have been the stuff of a great novel.

He was brought up in a narrow alley off Covent Garden, his father a chatty Devonian barber; his mother, more genteel, slithered into madness, and her husband and son bundled her into Bedlam to die. By then Turner was in his twenties, a star in the artistic firmament with a lover who had borne him two illegitimate daughters. He kept his clandestine private life utterly separate from his professional career, conducted in the glare of celebrity and controversy. He acquired a reputation for miserliness, squirrelling away a fortune in the form of property and government bonds.

He eventually set up house with a much younger woman, first at Margate, later in a riverside cottage at Chelsea. He allowed her to keep him out of her own pocket, but she cared for him with touching devotion to the end. Meanwhile his London house had gone to ruin, rain leaking into the gallery he had so carefully designed, the masterpieces he had hoarded there lying in piles, dripped on and peeling.

His will virtually ignored his family, who took their revenge for a lifetime's indifference by pleading that he was of unsound mind. The dispute dragged on, *Bleak House*-like, for five years.

He had wanted the £140,000 in his estate to go to worthy professional causes: an Academy medal for landscape painting, almshouses for "poor and decayed Male Artists". A compromise reached by the Court of Chancery in 1856 gave the family the money, while the nation received all the pictures — not just the 100 finished canvases Turner wished but 300 paintings and oil sketches, thousands of drawings and hundreds of sketchbooks.

Both these new biographies keep the paintings firmly in their place. They are to be read, not looked at, and both are very readable. They exploit as best they can Turner's scrappy but sometimes amusing letters, his lugubrious "manuscript poem" *Fallacies of Hope*. Each book tries to balance the misanthropic Turner against the generous artist, the life and soul of whitebait suppers at Greenwich or Eel Pie Island. Each gets it about right, with a decided positive emphasis.

Hamilton writes less, but with gusto, bringing Turner to vivid three-dimensional life. Bailey is almost as thorough as Finberg, and perhaps as a consequence there is less light and air in his narrative, but it is an impressive performance. These two overdue buses are going in the same direction but they take slightly different routes, and each is worth the ride.

Andrew Wilton is Keeper of British Art at the Tate Gallery. His Turner in His Time is published by Thames and Hudson, priced £36

Bargains of the week: from tennis coaching and world-class athletics to the peace of an Indian hilltop

HOLIDAYS

TENNIS BREAKS for budding Wimbledon stars are available at the David Lloyd Leisure Club, Eastbourne, Sussex, for £119 a person including two nights' half-board and eight hours' coaching a day. Details: 01323 520091.

☐ KEFALONIA, the Greek island, will cost £249 a person for a week's self-catering with Kosmar Holidays flying from Gatwick next Sunday. Details: 0181-368 6833.

☐ FLORIDA fly-drive holidays from £199 a person for a fortnight, flying from Gatwick to Sanford, Orlando, on July 10 are available from Jetsave. Details: 01342 312033.

☐ THE ITALIAN Lakes for £305 a person for 11 nights B&B, with a flight from Gatwick on July 5, is on offer from Advantage Travel Centres. Details: 0990 881888.

☐ ATHENS and the World Athletics Championships feature in a holiday from David Dryer Sports Tours with a flight from Gatwick on August 1, ten nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast and tickets. Price: from £899 a person. Details: 0171-831 7799.

☐ VIENNA for a week for £249 a person, staying in student accommodation, is on offer from DER Travel from July 1. Details: 0171-408 0111.

☐ SIMLA, the hilltop Indian city popular with the British Raj, is featured in a four-day trip from Delhi with Greaves Tours, costing £235 a person, including rail travel and full board. Flights from the UK to Delhi cost from £405 return. Details: 0171-487 9111.

☐ THE THREE CHOIRS Festival at Hereford is the focal point of a break from August 21 to 23 costing £196 a person with Whistler Breaks and including two nights' half-board, concert tickets and city tours. Details: 01743 718964.

☐ BARBADOS for a fortnight over the late summer Bank Holiday is on offer for £629 a person in self-catering accommodation from Airtours. The flight goes from Manchester on August 18. Details: 0541 507109.

FLIGHTS

AIR UK has Euroff fares to Amsterdam starting from £69 from London, £79 from Manchester or Norwich, £89 from Birmingham, £109 from Edinburgh or Glasgow, £129 from Aberdeen, Inverness, Newcastle or Teesside. Details: 0990 074074

☐ PORTUGALIA Airlines has a £159 excursion from Manchester to Lisbon or Oporto valid until July 15. Details 0990 502048.

☐ AB AIRLINES has reduced its Gatwick to Lisbon excursion to £114. Details: 0345 464748.

☐ FLIGHTS to Sydney or Brisbane before December 12 cost £635 return with Japan Airlines, including a free one-night stopover in Tokyo or Osaka. Details: 0171-636 5000.

☐ UNTIL August 8, Lupus Travel has a £99 BA excursion between Gatwick and Genoa. Details: 0171 306 3000.

☐ FLIGHTS to Dubai cost £365 from August 16 to October 31. Details: Air Tickets Direct 0990 320321.

Cruising holidays on the canals and rivers of France to coincide with Bastille Day celebrations on July 14 are available from Blakes Boating Holidays. A week from July 12 on a cruiser sleeping four on the Canal du Midi and taking in the celebrations in the walled city of Carcassonne, above, costs £280 a person. Details: 01603 782911

FERRIES

RED FUNNEL Ferries offers inclusive day-trips for a car and four passengers from Southampton, coupled with entry to several attractions on the Isle of Wight. Details: 01703 334010.

☐ SALLY HOLIDAYS has three-night breaks to Disneyland Paris from £38 a person to include ferry and accommodation. Up to two children under 16 travel free: July 1 to August 31. Details: 0181-395 3030.

☐ STENA LINE has introduced ten-day fares on Dover-Calais of £145 for a car and up to five passengers for bookings made by June 30, for travel by September 30. Details: 0990 707070.

☐ HOVERSPEED has new £35 day-trip or overnight fares on Dover-Calais for a car and two passengers on its SuperSeaCat service, July 18 to September 7. Details: 0990 240241.

☐ SCANDINAVIAN SEAWAYS has reduced the price of its two-night mini-cruises to Denmark this summer to £69. Details: 0990 333111.

HOTELS

THE PRINCESS Sofia Inter-Continental Hotel in Barcelona is offering savings of 30 per cent off normal rates until the end of August as part of its "summer options" deal. Other Inter-Continentals have similar deals. Details: 0345 581444.

☐ TYLNEY HALL Hotel near Hook, Hampshire, has a three-night summer break rate of £234 a room a night, including dinner, based on double occupancy. Details: 01256 764881.

☐ SUMMER RATES at the Lowndes Hotel, in London's Knightsbridge, will be £150 a night plus VAT for single bookings and £160 plus VAT for doubles. The special rates apply from July 7 until August 31. Details: 0171-823 1234.

☐ TO CELEBRATE Wimbledon finals the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews is running a special offer, at £149 a person, on July 4. Strawberries and cream, dinner and breakfast, are included. Details: 01334 474371.

☐ THREE NIGHTS for the price of two are offered at weekends in July and August at the Pennington Midland Hotel, a Victorian hotel in Bradford. Cost is £98 a person. Details: 01274 735735.

☐ AN OUTDOOR concert, part of the York Early Music Festival, is included in the overnight rate of £59 at the Swallow Hotel in York on July 6. Details: 01904 701000.

☐ AUGUST RATE at the Oakley Court Hotel near Windsor, close to the Legoland theme park, is £65 a person based on double occupancy. Details: 01753 609988.

☐ FOUR NIGHTS for the price of three in July and August are available at the Donnington Thistle Hotel, near Derby. The price of £180 a person, for double occupancy, includes breakfast and dinner. Details: 01332 850700.

☐ IBIS HOTELS is offering a "holiday passport" promotion until end of August, including eight £10 room-discount coupons and cut-price deals with Europcar. Ibis has 262 hotels in nine European countries. Details: 0181-746 3233.

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Go east for new ski slopes

By Joanna Bale

THE snow and mountains of Lapland, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Soviet republic of Georgia are featured for the first time in the winter holiday brochures in travel agents this week.

Heli-skiing on virgin powder as high as 13,200ft in Gudauri in the Caucasus mountains makes similar experiences in the Alps "tame by comparison", according to Crystal Holidays.

A week's all-inclusive package, including direct flights on British Airways from Heathrow to Tbilisi, starts from £1,139 a person.

The resort of Kopaonik in Serbia offers some of the best value. A week's Thomson ski package for beginners, with flights, accommodation, equipment, lessons and lift pass, costs £275.

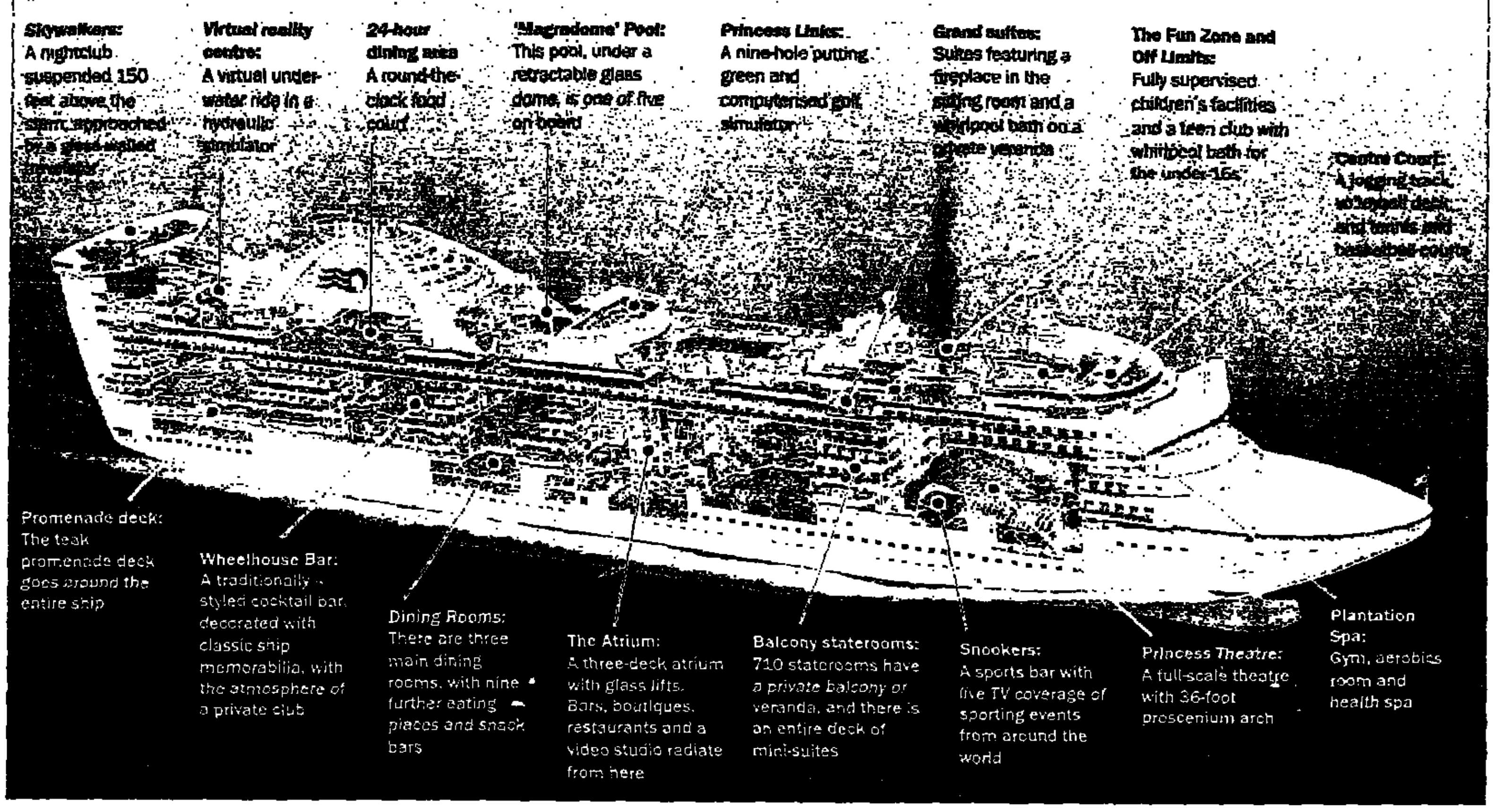
Crystal has also lowered its prices, with self-catering starting at £175 a week for St Lary in the French Pyrenees, half-board from £183 a week in Bulgaria, and North America starting at £299.

Lapland is another new Crystal destination for families, offering children a chance to visit Santa Claus. There are also opportunities to try cross-country skiing and a snow-scooter safari.

In Slovenia, Crystal offers a choice of three resorts: Kranjska Gora, Bled and Bohinj. First Choice Ski is offering a £75 early booking discount per couple, self-drive reductions and learn-to-ski packages from £49. Its brochures offer packages in 72 resorts in eight countries.

Husky-sledding in Lapland

GRAND PRINCESS: THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP


Skywalkers: A nightclub suspended 150 feet above the stern, approached by a glass-walled travelator
Virtual reality centre: A virtual underwater ride in a hydraulic simulator
24-hour dining area: A round-the-clock food court
'Magradome' Pool: This pool, under a retractable glass dome, is one of five on board
Princess Links: A nine-hole putting green and computerised golf simulator
Grand suites: Suites featuring a fireplace in the sitting room and a whirlpool bath on a private veranda
The Fun Zone and Off Limits: Fully supervised children's facilities and a teen club with whirlpool bath for the under-16s
Centre Court: A jogging track, whirlpool deck and tennis and basketball courts
Promenade deck: The teak promenade deck goes around the entire ship
Wheelhouse Bar: A traditionally-styled cocktail bar, decorated with classic ship memorabilia, with the atmosphere of a private club
Dining Rooms: There are three main dining rooms, with nine further eating places and snack bars
The Atrium: A three-deck atrium with glass lifts. Bars, boutiques, restaurants and a video studio radiate from here
Balcony staterooms: 710 staterooms have a private balcony or veranda, and there is an entire deck of mini-suites
Snookers: A sports bar with live TV coverage of sporting events from around the world
Princess Theatre: A full-scale theatre with 36-foot proscenium arch
Plantation Spa: Gym, aerobics room and health spa

Safety pledges on new superliners

By Harvey Elliott

AS THE world's biggest cruise ship nears completion this week, questions are being asked about the safety and efficiency of the new generation of superliners.

The 109,000-tonne *Grand Princess*, being built for Princess Cruises, will be the largest passenger ship ever built, capable of carrying 2,592 passengers and 1,100 crew around the world when she comes into service next May.

Ordered by P&O to meet the demand for cruising — up 22 per cent last year and a bigger increase predicted this year — even *Grand Princess* will soon be dwarfed by others now being built in America. Westin Hotels, for example, plans to launch the 250,000-tonne *America World City* — capable of carrying 8,600 passengers and crew — by the end of the decade.

But concern is growing because of the impact such huge vessels will have on the ports they visit and of the safety implications of carrying so many passengers, many of them elderly.

Captain Philip Pearce-Smith, who has run a search and rescue operation in the Solent for the past 35 years, claims that cruise ships are becoming too big and that a disaster is waiting to happen.

He says: "How are the old and infirm supposed to get into a lifeboat in an emergency? Now that fashion is dictating that ships have a large central atrium, which is open to all decks, they must also be open to both fire and flood. I fully understand that being big means being profitable, but it cannot be long before one of them has a disaster."

But his fears were dismissed by shipping companies, which claim that safety regulations are more stringent now than ever.

Edmund Brookes, director of marine services for the Chamber of Shipping, says: "Ships are full of detectors, sprays, fireproof bulkheads and protection equipment in ways they never were before.

"Everything is now designed to the very highest standards and approved by governments. The more passengers there are, the more safety equipment there is. There is no unease in the industry at all because we know that we would not launch a ship unless it met the latest safety standards."

The potential fire hazard of atriums have already been tackled by the regulations, which include such devices as automatic "water walls" to prevent any fire from spreading, the industry claims.

Captain Pearce-Smith is also worried that the new giant ships will swamp the facilities at ports they visit.

"Many Caribbean islands do not have the infrastructure to cope with 2,500 people or more arriving in a superliner," he says. "Often, two or three are in port together, and only a handful of coaches is available."

SOLENT NEWS

Captain Philip Pearce-Smith: search and rescue expert

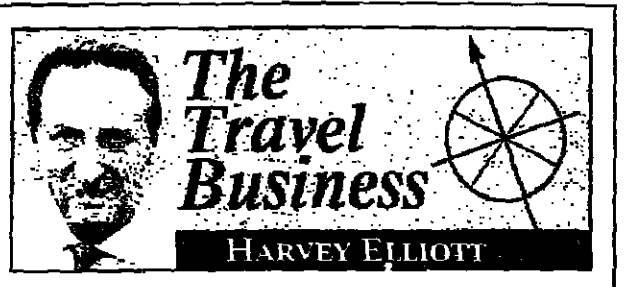
The Passenger Shipping Association is adamant, however, that most ports can cope with the growth in cruise ships.

William Gibbons, the association's director, says: "Technically, there is no limit to the size of a ship. Though there may be more passengers, each one has more space than in a smaller ship and there are far more facilities. Cruising, though the fastest-growing tourist sector, still has only a 2.9 per cent share of the holiday market."

The *Grand Princess* enters service on May 14 next year with a 12-night Mediterranean cruise from Southampton. The ship is being built at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, at a cost of $400 million (about £242 million).

Cabins will cost from £1,895 for a twin inside berth to £2,545 for a balcony cabin. The ship has 26 cabins for disabled passengers and 710 staterooms each with a private balcony.

In the first two days since the brochure went to travel agents this week, about 10 per cent of cabins for the maiden voyage had been sold.



How to placate the whingers

Anyone tempted to complain about a flight or a holiday which went wrong should watch *Airport*, a fly-on-the-wall documentary to be shown tonight on BBC1.

As Merla Celestine, an Air Jamaica manager at Heathrow, stoically copes with crisis after crisis and Jeremy Spake of Aeroflot overcomes everything even the most difficult passenger can throw at him, it is clear that if anyone has reason to complain, it is them — about their customers.

How those in the travel business keep their cool and smile in the face of often downright rudeness by passengers is remarkable.

Yet *Airport* is almost alone in portraying this reality. Others seem determined to prove that anyone who takes a flight or books a holiday is going to be ripped off. On *Summer Holiday*, screened on BBC1 on Tuesday, "undercover investigators" asked travel agents for advice about taking a holiday in the Caribbean or the Maldives in August. The programme said that half the travel agents failed to warn them that there are hurricanes in the Caribbean and monsoons in the Maldives at that time.

For goodness sake. People are not stupid. They can read a brochure, ask a friend, use their general knowledge, or even question a travel agency clerk.

But that is not how they are regarded by those anxious to expose the wicked travel companies. At every turn, passengers are urged to complain, to demand their money back and to give the holiday companies a hard time.

As a justification for their campaigns the "consumer champions" say that the number of complaints is going up — Abta alone reported 14,931 in 1995 and 17,929 last year.

But are those figures the result of worsening standards or of moaners being encouraged to regard the travel industry as a "soft touch"?

Courts are packed with plaintiffs demanding compensation for their "holiday from hell", and anyone who has been on a package holiday or cruise will recognise the near-professional complainers.

The cheaper a holiday, the more people complain

Tour operators and airlines are in the business of selling dreams. And too often they are painted too rosily. Brochures show picture postcard islands, clear blue skies and perfect hotels. At the same time they offer ever lower prices with, inevitably, lower standards.

Led by Thomson, which now produces a "warts and all brochure", the industry is beginning to acknowledge that a resort can have shortcomings as well as delights. It is discovering that low prices alone are not enough and that the cheaper the holiday the more the complaints.

Now they need to go a stage further. The size and standard of the accommodation is the most common cause of complaint. Show genuine pictures of the room, restaurant and facilities which guests can expect and they will be less likely to moan.

And be prepared to pay far more for the likes of Merla and Jeremy. Their PR value alone is worth every penny they should — but shamefully do not — get.

London hotel costs in top five

By David Churchill

AS DEMAND for first class rooms in London outstrips supply, the capital has emerged as the fifth most expensive city in the world for business travellers. A new survey claims that costs for international high-flyers, including hotels and meals, come to more than £318 a day.

Executives who manage to secure a room in a London business-class hotel will find themselves paying £220 a night, on average, plus just over £31 a day for incidentals such as laundry and dry-cleaning. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will set back business travellers a further £67.50 — without the cost of entertaining.

Business travellers headed for Hong Kong face the heftiest daily living expenses. Hotel, incidentals and food cost more than £387, according to a survey of 100 cities by the magazine *Business Travel News Europe*.

Also ahead of London in the world stakes, are Tokyo, Monte Carlo and Paris. But, surprisingly, the cost of doing business in America is less than in most European and Far Eastern capitals. The most expensive city in the US is New York which, the magazine points out, would only just scrape into the top 20 worldwide.

JUST KEEP DRIVING TILL MORNING. I'M SAVING ON HOTEL BILLS!
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Fast ferries fight Shuttle challenge

By Steven Keenan

FAST ferries have been introduced on four cross-Channel routes this summer as operators try to fight the impact of Le Shuttle.

The car-carrying Le Shuttle service, which takes 35 minutes, resumed full operation on June 1, with up to five departures an hour through the Channel Tunnel.

Also, after the tunnel blaze last November, the company wants to regain half the car market through Dover and Folkestone by the summer's end — with plans to win up to 70 per cent. But yesterday one of its Dover-based rivals, Hoverspeed, put a new Super SeaCat worth £22 million into service to operate alongside two hovercraft to Calais. The battle is being fought on speed and service.

Hovercraft crossings also take 35 minutes, with the new craft taking 15 minutes longer. The conventional ferries of P&O, Stena Line and Sea France take 75 minutes.

The monohulled Super SeaCat can carry more than 770 passengers and 175 cars. Geoffrey Ede, managing director, said: "She performs like a powerboat. There will be nothing like her on the Channel." Holidaymakers using Dover who prefer a fast crossing also have the choice of Stena Line's twin-hulled Sea-Lynx catamaran to Calais.

Despite a planned merger between P&O and Stena Line at Dover — which will reduce their pool of conventional ships from nine to six — travellers can also choose from the three conventional ferries of Sea France.

But Stena's emphasis is now on routes away from the highly competitive Calais route. The company has invested £300 million during the past year in HSS jet-powered fast ferries. The HSS has doubled the passenger and car capacity of Hoverspeed's new fast ferry and has cut times to Holland by half, to three hours and 40 minutes.

Gareth Cooper, managing director, said: "It is a competitor to Dover-Calais, the Channel Tunnel and even airlines. I think an HSS would also work from Dover."

The other two routes to host new fast ferries this summer are Ramsgate to Ostend and Dunkirk, operated by Holyman Sally Ferries. The company introduced high-speed catamarans, replacing conventional ships and hydrofoils.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

India: Bhutan, Puri and Simla; Croatia; Whale-watching in Norway; Club Med in Sicily

Insure before you leap

By Harvey Elliott

THOUSANDS of British holidaymakers are risking their lives and financial ruin by taking part in increasingly popular, but dangerous, sports such as free-fall parachuting.

Adventurous tourists tempted to try tandem parachute jumps like that which severely injured Gareth Griffiths and led to the death of his instructor in Florida this week, were warned that the sport is almost certainly excluded from the standard holiday insurance cover.

Malcolm Tarling of the Association of British Insurers said: "Although insurance companies do not expect you to sit in your hotel room throughout the two-week holiday, they do not expect you to put yourself at undue risk."

A spokesman for Home and Overseas, Britain's biggest holiday insurer, said that while more people were trying dangerous sports while on holiday, its policies excluded parachuting.

Columbus Insurance said its policies covered white-water rafting and scuba diving, but not parachuting.

Peter Shepherd of the specialist broker Leisurecare Insurance, in Swindon, said it could arrange cover for almost every sport. "Ten days parachuting in the United States could be obtained for £56.24. Compared with the minimum hospital cost of £1,000 a day — and double that if doctors' fees and drugs are included — it is very reasonable."

Many young holidaymakers decide on the spot to take part in a dangerous sport without contemplating the possible implications. Rachel Kearsley, a 28-year-old London secretary, spotted an advertisement for skydiving while in Australia. "I don't remember being asked to sign anything," she said. "We just had five minutes' chat and went up and jumped with an instructor. It was fantastic. But I never gave insurance a thought."

Skydiving in America is controlled by the United States Parachute Association. About 160,000 people a year make their first parachute jump, of which half are in tandem with an instructor. There were 39 fatal parachute accidents in America last year, of which one was a tandem accident.

US parachute centres give new parachutists an hour's instruction, including a training video showing emergency procedures. Clubs do not insist on students taking out medical insurance.

In Britain, the Civil Aviation Authority is technically responsible for parachuting safety, but delegates its powers to the British Parachute Association (BPA).

A first-time jumper would be required to take a medical if over the age of 40 and the BPA regularly inspects all equipment and procedures.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

RACING

Tote appointment takes farcical turn

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE remarkable saga of the Tote chairmanship took a dramatic twist last night when it emerged that Lord Wyatt of Weeford's term of office could be extended yet again — because of Home Office indecision.

It had been thought that an announcement concerning a successor to Lord Wyatt, who has been suffering from pneumonia, would be made this week as the elderly peer is due to retire on Monday after 21 years at the helm.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was on the verge of choosing between Peter Jones, racing's favoured choice, and Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League, for the £75,000-a-year post. In recent days the odds have been heavily in favour of Lindsay getting the job.

However, there appears to have been a last-minute hiccup which could prevent Straw from making up his mind until the end of next month. The delay would leave the Tote rudderless for a month, so Wyatt, who will be 79 next week, is expected to be asked to stay on.

Just what is behind this latest hitch is unclear, but the surprise development would seem to have tilted the odds back in favour of Jones, a former president of the Racehorse Owners Assocation and director of the Tote.

Nonetheless, this latest development in the Tote chairmanship has given fresh meaning to Whitehall farce. It was back in July of last year that Michael Howard announced that he intended to begin "very shortly" the search for a new chairman to succeed Lord Wyatt — who was orginally due to stand down in April this year.

A Home Office panel, including Sir Richard Wilson, the permanent secretary at the Home Office and Lord Hartington, the founder of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), interviewed candidates in January.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LORD SMITH
(2.00 Salisbury)
Next best: Will To Win
(4.00 Salisbury)

Four names were forwarded to Howard for consideration: Major General Guy Watkins, former chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, Christopher Sporborg, a member of the Jockey Club, chairman of United Racecourses, and a director of the Tote and BHB, along with Jones and Lindsay.

Instead of coming to a swift decision, Howard sat on his hands. Eventually he came down in favour of Watkins, but because of the closeness of the general election he was obliged to consult Straw — who blocked the appointment.

Wyatt was reappointed as chairman for a further two months and after the general election, Straw promised a swift decision about a successor. However, he too seems to have been afflicted by hesitancy. Wyatt genuinely wants to step down from the Tote chairmanship and is unlikely to be amused by the latest goings-on.

Straw has interviewed Watkins, Jones and Lindsay. While Jones played it rather defensively, Lindsay impressed the Home Secretary with his radical plans and the fact that he is not part of racing's establishment.

After helping Wigan to become the most successful club in rugby league, Lindsay was put in charge of the sport and turned it upside down. He engineered the introduction of the Super League, summer rugby and the world club championship, and negotiated a multi-million pound deal with Sky Television.

Although Lindsay has made his reputation transforming rugby league, he is no stranger to racing and betting. He has held a bookmaker's license since 1975 and has had horses in training for 30 years.

By the middle of this week the job seemed his for the taking — until the sudden turnaround yesterday.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

The veteran Cape Pigeon, ridden by Darryll Holland, gains his twelfth success in the Martin Claiming Stakes at Salisbury yesterday

Snow Kid's paces leave deep impression

SNOW KID impressed as a group horse in the making when routing the opposition for the Margadale Conditions Stakes at Salisbury yesterday, setting up a 56-1 treble for Pat Eddery.

Improving markedly on the form of his debut success at Wolverhampton, the David Loder-trained colt won by seven lengths from Peppiatt after making virtually all the running.

Ricky Bowman, Loder's travelling head lad, said: "This horse is going to keep progressing and, come the end of the season, who knows what he will be. He has had a lot of minor problems and is a big-topped horse, that is why he did not run as a two-year-old. He loved the soft ground and the governor will step him up in grade now."

Eddery was also impressed. "He gave me a good feel. I think he could win at least a group three on this ground and I feel he would not be inconvenienced by a step up to a mile," he said.

Rainwatch, another progressive sort, defied top weight under Eddery in the Gibbs Mew Bibury Cup Handicap. The son of Rainbow Quest, trained at Arundel by John Dunlop, set out to make all but had to dig deep before going seven lengths clear of Heart Of Armor. Dunlop said: "He's no superstar, but a long distance might suit him."

Eddery completed his treble when employing patient tactics successfully on White Emir in the Alderholt Sprint Handicap. The champion jockey forced the Brian Meehan-trained gelding, a notoriously tricky ride, to the front in the final strides.

Frankie Dettori, one of Eddery's rivals for this year's title, gave up his final two rides after jarring his shoulder in a fall leaving the paddock. He is likely to be out of action until tomorrow.

Cape Pigeon, a 12-year-old, put his younger rivals firmly in their place when running away with the Martin Claiming Stakes.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.15 Risky Whisky. 2.45 Mystique Air. 3.15 **WILLIAM'S WELL (nap).** 3.45 Rex Mundi. 4.15 King Uno. 4.45 Captain Carparts. 5.15 Flyaway Hill.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 **WESTMINSTER.**

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH BEST SIS

2.15 CUMREW SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,175: 5f) (8 runners)

1	(8)	6601	RISKY WHISKY 8 (B,D,S) J Berry 9-4	P Fessey (3)	●
2	(4)	6000	FLASH D'OR 5 (D,G) M W Easterby 8-13	G Parkin (5)	85
3	(2)	0050	GENERAL JOEY 9 (B) M Dods 8-11	S Webster	–
4	(7)	0006	TOLL'S TIMES 9 (B) M W Easterby 8-11	T Lucas	69
5	(5)	66	UP THE CLARETS 27 J J O'Neill 8-11	K Darley	90
6	(6)	06	VELVET STORY 17 N Tinkler 8-11	Kim Tinkler	94
7	(3)	5	AMINGTON GIRL 14 P Evans 8-6	J Fortune	80
8	(1)	0	E B TREASURE 20 N Bycroft 8-6	L Charnock	–

5-4 Risky Whisky, 7-2 Up The Clarets, 5-1 Amington Girl, 7-1 others.

2.45 PLAYGROUP LUNCHEON CLUB MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,853: 6f) (7)

1	(5)	5000	RISIOSTAR 6 (B) M Dods 4-9-7	C Teague (3)	67
2	(1)	2	BONGO 31 C Thornton 3-9-0	D McKeown	97
3	(4)		CHEF'S SPIRIT G M Moore 3-9-0	J Tate	–
4	(3)	-535	COMPATIBILITY 26 J Gosden 3-9-0	G Hind	●
5	(2)	0	RUNNING BEAR 31 Miss S Hall 3-9-0	J Carroll	–
6	(7)		LA PERDOMA Miss M Milligan 3-8-9	A Culhane	–
7	(6)	-535	MYSTIQUE AIR 6 E Weymes 3-8-9	J Weaver	94

4-7 Compatibility, 7-2 Mystique Air, 4-1 Bongo, 25-1 Chef's Spirit, 33-1 others.

3.15 LADBROKES LUCKY CHOICE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,856: 5f) (8)

1	(5)	0511	WILLIAM'S WELL 10 (B,D,G) M W Easterby 9-8 (7ex)	G Parkin (5)	93
2	(8)	0610	TORONTO 10 (B,D,F) J Berry 9-7	P Fessey (3)	93
3	(6)	4154	RUM LAD 9 (F) J J Quinn 9-6	J Lowe	98
4	(7)	02-0	MELBOURNE PRINCESS 64 R Whitaker 9-2	D McKeown	93
5	(2)	0000	HEATHYARDS PEARL 14 R Hollinshead 9-2	D Griffiths (3)	92
6	(3)	0040	RED ROMANCE 3 D Smith 9-0	L Charnock	96
7	(1)	0300	BELLARULA 30 M Dods 8-11	S Webster	●
8	(4)	0066	STAR OF THE ROAD 20 J Carr 8-11	A Culhane	91

7-4 William's Well, 4-1 Rum Lad, 5-1 Toronto, 6-1 Melbourne Princess, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss S Hall, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; M Tompkins, 7 from 25, 28.0%; Mrs J Ramsden, 14 from 55, 25.5%; E Weymes, 5 from 21, 23.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 16 from 69, 23.2%.

JOCKEYS: G Parkin, 4 winners from 22 rides, 18.2%; K Darley, 20 from 114, 17.5%; A Culhane, 6 from 37, 16.2%; J Weaver, 9 from 58, 15.5%; J Fortune, 12 from 94, 12.8%. Only qualifiers.

3.45 UCB FILMS CUMBERLAND PLATE HANDICAP (£7,003: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(8)	40-5	CRYSTAL FALLS 9 (F) J J O'Neill 4-10-0	K Darley	93
2	(5)	-154	BALLPOINT 22 (D,G) G M Moore 4-9-9	G Parkin (5)	97
3	(6)	0660	WARNING REEF 29 (H) P Eccles 4-9-9	D McKeown	95
4	(7)	0521	WESTMINSTER 5 (V,D,F,G) M Tompkins 5-9-4 (5ex)	P Clarke (7)	●
5	(2)	-034	JUST GRAND 10 M Johnston 3-9-1	J Weaver	86
6	(9)	33-0	REX MUNDI 20 (F) P Evans 5-9-0	J Carroll	90
7	(3)	0443	SUGA HAWK 19 (S) E Alston 5-8-11	G Hind	94
8	(4)	-213	CAMPASPE 24 (BF,D,F) J FitzGerald 5-8-11	J Fortune	94
9	(1)	4610	DURGAMS FIRST 19 (CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-1	A Culhane	89

5-2 Westminster, 4-1 Just Grand, 5-1 Ballpoint, Campaspe, 7-1 Suga Hawk, 8-1 Durgams First, 10-1 Crystal Falls, 12-1 others.

4.15 RED MILLS IRISH HORSEFEEDS HANDICAP
(Lady amateurs: £2,444: 7f) (13)

1	(9)	4431	KASS ALHAWA 5 (G) D Chapman 4-11-12 (5ex)	Miss R Clark	90
2	(3)	-431	MURPHY'S GOLD 22 (CD,F,G) R Fahey 6-11-6	Mrs C Williams (5)	85
3	(6)	0304	DELIGHT OF DAWN 10 (D,F) E Wheeler 5-11-1	Mrs L Pearce	92
4	(11)	0042	MILETRIAN CITY 6 (B,CD,F,G) J Berry 4-10-8	Miss V Marshall (5)	96
5	(1)	0033	SUEDORO 5 (F) J Goldie 7-10-7	Miss P Robson	92
6	(12)	0041	KING UNO 10 (V,G) Mrs J Ramsden 3-10-7 (5ex)	Miss E Ramsden (5)	93
7	(7)	5405	MANHATTAN DIAMOND 30 (B) A Bailey 3-10-5	Mrs A L Hutchinson (5)	86
8	(13)	0300	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 6 (V,D,S) A Bailey 5-10-5	Miss B Gatehouse (5)	95
9	(8)	0601	PRIME PARTNER 8 (G) T Easterby 4-10-1	Miss A Deniel (5)	●
10	(2)	6-60	BELBAY STAR 20 J Eyre 4-10-1	Miss Diana J Jones	90
11	(5)	0600	ROSEATE LODGE 15 (C,D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 11-10-0	Mrs D Kettlewell	92
12	(10)	0006	HI MUJTAHID 3 S Kettlewell 3-9-13	Mrs S Bosley	89
13	(4)	0-06	MARZOCCO 14 (D,F) T Cuthbert 9-9-4	Miss H Cuthbert (5)	88

7-2 King Uno, 4-1 Murphy's Gold, 5-1 Kass Alhawa, 7-1 Prime Partner, 8-1 Delight Of Dawn, Miletrian City, 10-1 Suedoro, David James' Girl, 12-1 others.

4.45 RAYOPHANE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,914: 1m) (6)

1	(2)	5062	GET THE POINT 15 R Hollinshead 9-7	F Lynch	92
2	(4)	0002	PENSION FUND 6 (F) M W Easterby 9-4	T Lucas	92
3	(5)	564	STORYTELLER 15 Mrs J Ramsden 8-8	J Fortune	92
4	(3)	5036	CAPTAIN CARPARTS 9 J Eyre 8-7	T Williams	96
5	(6)	5602	ROBBO 8 (B) C Thornton 8-6	D McKeown	●
6	(1)	1555	DIAMOND EYRE 10 J Eyre 8-4	R Lappin	83

2-1 Get The Point, 3-1 Storyteller, 5-1 Pension Fund, Diamond Eyre, 6-1 others.

5.15 WALTON LIMITED STAKES
(£2,598: 1m) (7)

1	(7)	1100	POWER GAME 8 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 4-9-9	T E Durcan (5)	88
2	(6)	30-2	BEANO SCRIPT 10 J Hanson 3-9-5	Dale Gibson	●
3	(5)	0-03	HIGHSPEED 14 (D,F,S) S Kettlewell 5-9-5	J Fortune	94
4	(2)	5-40	MOVE SMARTLY 48 (D,F) Mrs L Dobbs 7-9-5	J Weaver	89
5	(1)	0020	SUPERPRIDE 5 (BF,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-5	A Culhane	96
6	(2)	0101	DEE PEE TEE CEE 5 (F,G) M W Easterby 3-9-12	T Lucas	90
7	(4)	0-50	FLYAWAY HILL 16 P Harris 3-8-6	K Darley	94

7-4 Dee Pee Tee Cee, 3-1 Highspeed, 5-1 Superpride, 6-1 Power Game, 7-1 others.

Huntingdon trims Plate team to one

LORD HUNTINGDON yesterday gave the go-ahead for his well-backed Shaft Of Light to run in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle on Saturday. His two other entries, Lord Jim and Snow Princess, are unlikely to take part in the £100,000-added handicap.

The trainer made his plans after hearing that original top-weight, Jiyush, had been pulled out, leading to a rise in the weights. After Jiyush's defection, Lord Jim's absence will lead to an 8lb rise in the weights. Sweetness Herself, who will now head the weights, will be ridden by the apprentice, Mark Baird.

The rise in the weights will enable Richard Quinn to ride the favourite, Windsor Castle, whose weight will rise from 8st 2lb to 8st 10lb.

Ladbrokes now bet: 4-1 Windsor Castle, 5-1 Top Cees, 6-1 Transom (from 8-1), 7-1 Shaft Of Light (from 10-1), 8-1 Embryonic, 9-1 Sweetness Herself, 14-1 Go Britannia, Flirting Around, 16-1 others.

William Hill: 4-1 Windsor Castle, 6-1 Top Cees, 7-1 Transom (from 8-1), 8-1 Shaft Of Light (from 10-1), 10-1 Embryonic, Flirting Around, Sweetness Herself (from 12-1), 14-1 Go Britannia, 16-1 others.

SALISBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Lord Smith
2.30 Corradini
3.00 Family Man
3.30 Legs Be Frendly
4.00 Almasi
4.30 Silver Lining
5.00 Sound Appeal

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Corradini. 3.30 Mountain Song. 4.00 **ALMASI** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield. C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 SOUTHAMPTON CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,553: 7f) (9 runners)

101	(7)	0	DANCING AL 26 (Miss L Martin) J S Moore 9-1	N Adams	–
102	(8)	0	CELTIC COMFORT 17 (A Brookes) P Haslam 8-11	R Ffrench (5)	82
103	(9)	523611	WHO NOSE 30 (B,F,G) (Abbott Racing Ltd) B Meehan 8-10	M Tebbutt	97
104	(2)	2151	LORD SMITH 35 (F,G) (Mrs M Teversham) W G M Turner 8-8	D McGaffin (7)	●
105	(3)	00R	DISTINCTLY LILLIE 22 (E Houghton) J S Moore 8-5	A Clark	81
106	(5)	5414	FIGAWIN 9 (G Lewis) G Lewis 8-4	Paul Eddery	96
107	(1)	66	GOLDENACRES 20 (J Bradley) J Neville 8-4	S Drowne	72
108	(4)	0	JASMINE TEA 19 (S Bayless) M Meade 7-13	F Norton	–
109	(6)	0	ASTROLFELL 87 (Mrs P Ratcliffe) J S Moore 7-12	M Henry (3)	–

BETTING: 11-4 Lord Smith, 3-1 Celtic Comfort, 7-2 Figawin, 4-1 Who Nose, 14-1 Jasmine Tea, 16-1 Dancing Al, Goldenacres, 20-1 others.

1996: AVINALARF 8-3 D Sweeney (11-2) W G M Turner 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CELTIC COMFORT 9l 7th of 14 to Tamenn Bay in auction maiden at Pontefract (5f, good to firm). WHO NOSE beat The Honorable Lady 1½l in 5-runner seller at Leicester (6f, good to firm). LORD SMITH beat Swoosh neck in claimer at Newcastle (6f, good) with FIGAWIN about 3¾l 4th. FIGAWIN beat Katie's Cracker 1¾l in 10-runner seller at Southwell (6f, AW) with GOLDENACRES about 8¾l 6th.
Selection: WHO NOSE

2.30 HERBERT AND GWEN BLAGRAVE MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£4,561: 1m 6f) (4 runners)

201	(3)	1310-44	CORRADINI 31 (D,F,G) (F Abdulla) H Cecil 5-10-0	W Ryan	●
202	(4)	51460-	SMART PLAY 268 (G) (Mrs G Ward) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-6	J Reid	91
203	(2)	0-311	MONTFORT 13 (F,S) (Sir George Meyrick) P Cole 3-8-13	T Quinn	89
204	(1)	44-10	LETTYFAK 65 (G) (Mr & Mrs I Poyntoul) I Williams 3-8-9	Pat Eddery	–

BETTING: 4-5 Corradini, 2-1 Montfort, 6-1 Smart Play, 14-1 Lettyfak.

1996: LORD JIM 4-9-6 D Harrison (7-1) Lord Huntingdon 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORRADINI 2¾l 4th of 7 to Persian Punch in the group III Henry II Stakes at Sandown (2m 78yd, good to firm). SMART PLAY about 10l 6th of 9 to Busy Flight in listed race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) Sep 96. MONTFORT beat Cybertechnology 5l in 4-runner limited stakes at York (1m 4f, good to soft). LETTYFAK beat Bussaon 1l in 13-runner event at Compiegne (1m 3f, soft) March 97.
Selection: CORRADINI

3.00 NOEL CANNON MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP
(£5,508: 1m) (10 runners)

301	(3)	203-000	KAYVEE 8 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) Mrs A Perrett 8-10-0	A Clark	96
302	(2)	5110-	STRAZO 350 (C,D,F,S) (E Penser) Lady Herries 4-9-11	J Reid	90
303	(7)	2126-54	MY LEWICIA 17 (G Knight) P Harris 4-9-10	C Lowther (7)	91
304	(9)	250-600	LAW COMMISSION 8 (C,F) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 7-9-7	Pat Eddery	92
305	(6)	11145-5	DIVINA LUNA 14 (D,F,G) (D Deer) J Hills 4-9-4	M Henry (3)	89
306	(1)	120-350	CINEMA PARADISO 20 (F) (C Wright) P Cole 3-8-13	T Quinn	94
307	(8)	440-251	FAMILY MAN 26 (D,F) (Family Man Partnership) J Fanshawe 4-8-12	D Harrison	●
308	(5)	0111-06	KOATHARY 17 (D,F,S) (E Gadsden) L Cottrell 6-8-10	D Holland	90
309	(10)	0325	CHIEF MONARCH 20 (Mrs N Jefferis) B Smart 3-8-9	S Sanders	93
310	(4)	0-00300	WAKEEL 12 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Chandris) S Dow 5-8-7	A Daly (5)	97

BETTING: 3-1 Family Man, 11-2 Law Commission, 7-1 Kayvee, Divina Luna, 15-2 Koathary, 8-1 Cinema Paradiso, Wakeel, 10-1 others.

1996: TREGARON 5-9-3 T Quinn (8-1) R Akehurst 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

STRAZO beat Ocean 4l in 6-runner conditions stakes here (7f, good to firm). DIVINA LUNA about 4¾l 5th of 18 to Fatefully in listed handicap at Ascot (1m, good to firm). CINEMA PARADISO 3l 3rd of 6 to Paradise Nerve in conditions stakes at Doncaster (1m, good). FAMILY MAN beat Otary 3l in 11-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). KOATHARY beat Sand 1d 5l in 9-runner apprentice handicap at Goodwood (1m 1f, good to firm). WAKEEL about 11l 3rd of 17 to Phoenetic in handicap at Newbury (1m, soft).
Selection: FAMILY MAN

3.30 CHAMPAGNE AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £9,843: 7f) (18 runners)

401	(2)	4	HERMANUS 33 (J Hanson) J Dunlop 8-12	Pat Eddery	80
402	(13)	31	MOUNTAIN SONG 9 (D,G) (Eclipse Thoroughbreds) M Prescott 8-12	G Duffield	79
403	(15)	210	TIMEKEEPER 33 (G) (C Wall) M Bell 8-11	M Fenton	86
404	(4)	232	LEGS BE FRENDLY 15 (BF) (BADY Racing) K McAuliffe 8-8	J Reid	98
405	(1)	0	ROYAL AXMINSTER 39 (Axminster Carpets Ltd) Mrs P Dutfield 8-8	R Price	–
406	(5)	5	SADDLERS' RIDE 33 (Ford Farm Racing) B Hills 8-8	M Hills	77
407	(9)	010	TRUTH TELLER 20 (F) (J Smith) R Hannon 8-8	Dane O'Neill	90
408	(10)		DARING NEWS (L Haman) R Hannon 8-5	R Perham	–
409	(12)		IMPERATOR (Imperial Arms Partnership) Lady Herries 8-5	A Clark	–
410	(17)	0	BLACK JET 62 (T Clarke) S Mellor 8-4	R Ffrench	–
411	(6)	325	FIVEO'CLOCK SHADOW 33 (Mrs D Blackshaw) B Meehan 8-4	T Quinn	90
412	(3)		LAUREN'S LAD (V McCalla) G Lewis 8-4	Paul Eddery	–
413	(18)	21	TAMERIN BAY 17 (F) (P Augustin) P Cole 8-4	W Ryan	96
414	(13)		TITAN (J & S Kelly) S Dow 8-1	S Sanders	–
415	(7)		ANNIE HALL (S Beveson) M Blanshard 8-0	F Norton	–
416	(14)	6022	FAYRANA 16 (Avicennes Club France) J Hills 7-13	M Henry	●
417	(11)	01	MISLEAD 10 (G) (T Hanley) J S Moore 7-13	N Adams	87
418	(16)	1	PARISIAN LADY 16 (C,F) (A Cameron) A Bosanquet 7-13	J Quinn	98

BETTING: 9-2 Hermanus, 7-1 Mountain Song, Tamerin Bay, 8-1 Timekeeper, Saddlers' Ride, Fayrana, 10-1 Truth Teller, Fiveo'Clock Shadow, Parisian Lady, 14-1 others.

1996: FALKENHAM 9-11 T Quinn (4-1) P Cole 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOUNTAIN SONG beat Rosa hd in 11-runner auction maiden at Thirsk (7f, good). TIMEKEEPER beat Pine Star 7l in 8-runner maiden at Carlisle (5f, good) with BLACK JET (7lb better off) 10l 5th. LEGS BE FRENDLY 3½l 2nd of 14 to Pine Contradictor in auction maiden at Southwell (5f, AW). TRUTH TELLER beat Dancer Emma short head in 4-runner auction maiden at Brighton (6f, firm). TAMERIN BAY beat Lanterne Flyer 5l in 14-runner auction maiden at Folkestone (5f, good to firm). PARISIAN LADY beat FAYRANA 2½l in 12-runner auction maiden here (6f, good to firm).
Selection: PARISIAN LADY

4.00 DEVERILL FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,210: 6f) (20 runners)

501	(8)	00-0021	ALMASI 19 (D,F,G) (Equema Partnership) C Wall 5-9-12	G Duffield	95
502	(5)	40-6412	LUCKY DIP 15 (F) (C Harper) D Elsworth 3-9-7	J Reid	92
503	(12)	2110054	CORNICHE QUEST 10 (D,F,G,S) (M Bishop) M Channon 4-9-7	P P Murphy (3)	98
504	(1)	43-6014	THIRD PARTY 10 (BF,D,F) (Mrs G Smith) S Dow 3-9-5	T Quinn	96
505	(20)	85-00	SENORITA MATILDA 12 (J Smith) R Hannon 3-9-4	Dane O'Neill	95
506	(11)	020-000	SAND STAR 8 (V) (Mrs T Parry) D Haydn Jones 5-9-4	S Drowne	90
507	(16)	01560-6	ALWAYS GRACE 22 (D,F) (Easy Going Ptrs) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-4	S Sanders	86
508	(2)	40-5400	TINKER OSMASTON 31 (D,F,S) (J Luff) R Hodges 6-9-2	J Quinn	90
509	(16)	6000202	CAUDILLO 13 (S) (W Harrison-Allan) Mrs P Dutfield 4-9-1	Aimee Cook (5)	95
510	(10)	0654003	SHASHI 3 (D,F) (Mrs A Sanders) Pat Mitchell 5-9-0	Amanda Sanders (5)	98
511	(19)	6-00	OVER THE MOON 15 (P Nelson) M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-6	F Norton	91
512	(3)	1421443	WILL TO WIN 17 (D) (Mrs P Wyatt) P Murphy 3-8-5	D Harrison	94
513	(15)	6105	POLGWYNNE 12 (Tregavethan Partners) B Smart 3-8-1	A Daly (5)	93
514	(14)	0-06	BEVELED CRYSTAL 13 (Mrs J Powell) C James 3-8-1	C Rutter	89
515	(9)	0035630	SUPERLAO 12 (F) (J Walls) J Bridger 5-7-10	P Doe (7)	●
516	(17)	00-6000	ROYAL EMBLEM 17 (B) (Viscountess Kelburn) A Foster 3-7-10	R Ffrench (5)	90
517	(6)	320-0	SMALL RISK 19 (V) (Miss E Herbert) T Clement 3-7-10	Martin Dwyer (3)	89
518	(13)	0500-00	CALANDRELLA 15 (Mrs K Perrin) G Balding 4-7-10	N Adams	91
519	(4)	00-000	DORADO BEACH 13 (R Richards) L Cottrell 3-7-10	N Adams	80
520	(7)	0436000	INTO DEBT 12 (B) (Mrs J Druce) J Poulton 4-7-10	N Varley	86

Long handicap: Royal Emblem 7-8, Small Risk 7-8, Calandrella 7-6, Dorado Beach 7-5, Into Debt 7-2

BETTING: 9-2 Almasi, 11-2 Lucky Dip, 6-1 Will To Win, 8-1 Third Party, 10-1 Corniche Quest, Senorita Matilda, Shashi, Polgwynne, 12-1 others.

1996: FARAWAY LASS 3-9-6 Aimee Cook (9-4 fav) Lord Huntingdon 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALMASI beat Bollin Dorothy ¾l in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good). LUCKY DIP 2l 2nd of 12 to Barranak in handicap here (5f, good to firm). CORNICHE QUEST about 3l 4th of 10 to Royal Dome in limited stakes at Pontefract (5f, good). THIRD PARTY beat Goodbye Gatemen ½l in auction maiden at Brighton (6f, firm). SHASHI 3l 3rd of 20 to Superbit in handicap at Nottingham (6f, soft). WILL TO WIN 1¾l 4th of 18 to Night Harmony in handicap at Bath (5f 161yd, good to soft) with TINKER OSMASTON (3lb better off) 7¾l 14th.
Selection: SHASHI

4.30 CARNARVON CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP
(Amateurs: 3-Y-O: £2,798: 1m) (12 runners)

601	(8)	45-0611	MERCILESS COP 8 (D,F,G) (M Lankanchi) B Meehan 12-5 (5ex)	Miss J Allison	94
602	(7)	0021101	DOUBLE GOLD 12 (F,G) (C Ranson) M Bell 11-13	C Ranson	97
603	(6)	0-43001	SILVER LINING 15 (C,F) (Lambourn Racing) A Jones 11-9	J Goldstein	97
604	(3)	40-0546	RIGHTY HO 24 (E Perry) P Walwyn 11-6	Miss S Samworth	98
605	(2)	2520005	JOLLY JACKSON 16 (Mrs A Valentine) R Akehurst 11-3	K Goble	93
606	(5)	0-68	ARTHUR'S SEAT 29 (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 11-1	Mrs M Cowdrey	–
607	(4)	4-106	FORGET TO REMINDME 22 (C,F) (Mrs P Ratcliffe) J S Moore 11-0	Mrs S Moore	97
608	(9)	000-064	FAN OF VENT-AXIA 10 (V) D Cosgrove 10-8	DOUBTFUL	97
609	(12)	000-60	YANGTZE 30 (B) (A Walsh) B Millman 10-8	R Thornton	90
610	(10)	0-50045	WARRIOR KING 12 (M Balcomb) Mrs P Dutfield 10-6	L Jefford	●
611	(1)	000-002	WELCOME HEIGHTS 5 (Most Welcome Ptns) M Fetherston-Godley 10-3	Mrs D Arbuthnot	94
612	(11)	00-0	INKWELL 17 (M Cartwright) A Hide 10-2	L Baker	93

BETTING: 3-1 Double Gold, 7-2 Merciless Cop, 9-2 Silver Lining, 11-2 Righty Ho, 8-1 Jolly Jackson, 10-1 Welcome Heights, 12-1 Warrior King, 14-1 others.

1996: MIMOSA 10-8 S Fetherstonhaugh (14-1) S Dow 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MERCILESS COP beat Yoika ½l in claimer at Goodwood (1m, good). DOUBLE GOLD beat Chief Predator 1¼l in claimer at Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm). SILVER LINING beat Sharp King ¾l in 12-runner handicap here (7f, good to firm). JOLLY JACKSON about 2¾l 5th of 18 to Chasetown Flyer over course and distance (good to firm). FORGET TO REMINDME beat My Beloved neck in 16-runner claimer here (7f, good to firm). WELCOME HEIGHTS 1¾l 2nd of 12 to Around Fore Alliss in maiden handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW).
Selection: JOLLY JACKSON

5.00 ALINGTON MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,078: 1m 2f) (18 runners)

1	(16)	3-030	KEEN COMPANION 20 (S Simmons) T Naughton 4-10-0	J D Smith (3)	88
2	(18)	504-004	CLOUDS HILL 10 (V) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 4-9-6	Dane O'Neill	93
3	(10)	20-0244	MANIKATO 28 (V) (Edenmore Bslock) D Cosgrove 3-9-2	C Lowther (7)	93
4	(12)	504-000	SOUND APPEAL 16 (B) (R Fidler) A Foster 3-8-13	T Sprake	89
5	(14)	60-60	INIMITABLE 13 (Prestfield Stud) J Dunlop 3-8-11	Pat Eddery	96
6	(9)	60-603	BATHE IN LIGHT 24 (Conolan Ptns) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-9	D Harrison	93
7	(6)	40-0064	HIGH DESIRE 8 (J Gale) J Arnold 4-8-8	Martin Dwyer (3)	97
8	(7)	0-00	CANADIAN JIVE 38 (Hams Vale Ptns) C Arbuthnot 4-8-7	S Whitworth	–
9	(3)	5400004	MAGAZINE GAP 2 (Mrs A Sanders) Pat Mitchell 4-8-6	Amanda Sanders (5)	90
10	(13)	0-00	CAMPHAR 105 (J Evans) R Flower 4-8-0	Paul Eddery	–
11	(17)	00-0000	COUNTRY THATCH 16 (Mrs S Simmons) C Horgan 4-7-13	Paul Eddery	95
12	(2)	0006000	ONE IN THE EYE 12 (T Anthony) J Poulton 4-7-11	N Varley	90
13	(15)	60-0004	BOLD SAINT 17 (B) (Shining Force) P Harris 3-7-11	R Mullen (5)	●
14	(11)	0-00040	HADADABBLE 6 (Fun Managers Ptns) Pat Mitchell 4-7-11	M Henry (3)	98
15	(4)	660-006	MYOSOTIS 22 (B) (J Fox) P Makin 3-7-10	R Ffrench (5)	94
16	(9)	5006030	MAY KING MAYHEM 15 (S Harrison) Mrs A King 4-7-10	J Quinn	88
17	(5)	00005-0	ASKING 17 (Mrs J Rowlands) J Bennett 5-7-10	N Adams	–
18	(1)	00-0000	EXECUTIVE OFFICER 12 (B) (E Ivors) R Flower 4-7-10	F Norton	–

Long handicap: Myosotis 7-7, May King Mayhem 7-4, Asking 7-2, Executive Officer 7-2

BETTING: 9-2 Bathe In Light, 5-1 Manikato, Inimitable, 6-1 Clouds Hill, 8-1 Sound Appeal, Bold Saint, Myosotis, 12-1 others.

1996: DRAMATIC MOMENT 3-9-3 Martin Dwyer (15-2) I Balding 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

KEEN COMPANION 4¾l 3rd of 16 to Green Power in maiden at Windsor (1m 67yd, soft). MANIKATO 3l 4th of 7 to Stand Tall in limited stakes at Brighton (7f, firm). SOUND APPEAL 3¾l 7th of 19 to Chasetown Flyer in handicap here (1m, good to firm). HIGH DESIRE about 2¾l 4th of 17 to Diamond Crown in selling handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good). HADADABBLE about 3l 4th of 20 to Mr Rough in selling handicap at Yarmouth (1m, firm). MAY KING MAYHEM 3l 3rd of 15 to Evaporate in apprentice handicap at Leicester (1m 4f, good) with EXECUTIVE OFFICER (6lb better off) 19l 13th.
Selection: SOUND APPEAL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Prescott	3	11	27.3	Pat Eddery	23	117	19.7
H Cecil	9	36	25.0	G Duffield	5	29	17.2
Lord Huntingdon	13	56	23.2	W Ryan	9	55	16.4
J Fanshawe	6	35	17.1	N Varley	6	38	15.8
M Bell	3	19	15.8	M Hills	10	65	15.4
B Hills	5	35	14.3	T Quinn	22	148	14.9

Blinkered first time

CARLISLE: 4.15 David James Girl. 4.45 Robbo. SALISBURY: 4.00 Into Debt, Sand Star, Small Risk. 5.00 Executive Officer.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Carlisle

Going: good

2.15 (5f 207yd) 1. **ELOQUENT** (G Duffield, 4-6 fav); 2. **Panama House** (L Charnock, 9-1); 3. **Empire Park** (J Weaver, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Burnt Yates (5th), 11 Sioncre (4th), 20 Two Williams, 25 Cougar Dream, 50 Cherokee Charlie, Watchman (6th). 9 ran. NR: Bawsian. [illegible] Sir M Prescott. Tote £1.70; £1.10, £1.60, £2.90. DF £5.60. Trio £17.00. CSF £7.93.

2.45 (5f 207yd) 1. **NERVOUS REX** (J Wilkinson, 5-1); 2. **Needle Match** (J Carroll, 12-1); 3. **Ultra Beet** (J Weaver, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Marino Street, 8 Express Girl, Here Comes A Star (5th), Tom's Rose, 9 Fine Times (4th), 11 Mr Fortywinks, 16 Forecast, Imp Express, King Of Show (6th), 33 Little Papoose, Snail, Wild Prospect. 15 ran. 2½l, 1½l, 1½l, nk. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote £5.40; £1.70, £4.50, £2.10. DF £54.00. Trio £154.10. CSF £66.87.

3.15 (6f 206yd) 1. **WINTER SCOUT** (R Winston, 11-2); 2. **Mr Cube** (R Ffrench, 4-1); 3. **Allinson's Mate** (Kimberley Hart, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Euro Sceptic (4th), 5 Cee-Jay-Ay, Rymer's Rascal (6th), 10 Welcome Lu, 16 Oriel Lad, 20 Forzy, 25 Chicanim (5th). 10 ran. ½l, nk, 1½l, ½l, shd. R Fahey at Malton. Tote £6.90; £2.90, £1.60, £1.40. DF £18.00. Trio £21.10. CSF £26.15. Tricast £111.37.

3.45 (7f 214yd) 1. **RAINBOW RAIN** (M Roberts, 6-1); 2. **Bollin Frank** (L Charnock, 5-1 jt-fav); 3. **Topaton** (D Biggs, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 jt-fav Murphy's Gold, 8 Bowcliffe (5th), Pride Of Pendle, 10 Lay The Blame, 12 Bulsara, Spanish Verdict, 16 King Athelstan, Quilling (6th), Rapid Talented Ting, Thatched (4th), 25 Gilling Dancer. 15 ran. ¾l, sh hd, 1½l, ½l, nk. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote £6.90; £1.90, £2.80, £2.90. DF £17.90. Trio £140.90. CSF £37.51. Tricast £270.54.

4.15 (5f 207yd) 1. **COURT EXPRESS** (A Culhane, 5-2); 2. **Bold Brief** (L Charnock, 6-1); 3. **Tailwind** (M Roberts, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Priory Gardens (6th), 9 Legend Of Aragon (4th), 10 Royal Cascade (5th). 6 ran. NR: Forest Signal, Tazban. 1½l, 4l, ½l, sh hd, 1½l. T Etherington at Malton. Tote £3.10; £1.70, £3.10. DF £20.10. CSF £17.94. Tricast £66.93.

4.45 (2m 1f 52yd) 1. **BLACK ICE BOY** (Dean McKeown, 33-1); 2. **Arisaig** (Darren Moffatt, 11-2 jt-fav); 3. **Penny Peppermint** (J Carroll, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 jt-fav Euphoric Illusion, Hancock (4th), 6 Bruz, 7 Old Hush Wing (6th), Warrin, 10 Cullin Caper, Moorbird, 14 Ocean Breeze (5th), Palace River (out), Valiant Dash, 20 Mick's Tycoon, Ship's Dancer. 15 ran. ½l, 3l, 2½l, hd, 2½l. R Bastiman at Wetherby. Tote £132.50; £12.10, £1.90, £6.20. DF £499.60. Trio not won. CSF £207.85. Tricast £3,515.28.

5.15 (1m 4f) 1. **SHERQY** (Mr A Balding, Evens fav); 2. **Heighth Of Fame** (Mr J Bune, 9-2); 3. **Able Player** (Mr K Drewry, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 2 Yet Again (5th), 9 Coo Na Fomaige (4th), 14 Sc Keen (6th), 25 Interactor. 7 ran. 1½l, 4l, 2l, nk, 2½l. S Kettlewell at Middleham. Tote £2.60; £1.20, £1.00. DF £2.50. CSF £6.79.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £5,749.62 carried forward to Salisbury today).

Placepot: £216.70 Quadpot: £70.10.

Salisbury

Going: good to soft

2.30 (6f) 1. **KAWAFIL** (R Hills, 11-4 fav); 2. **Perfect Harmony** (M Tebbutt, 16-1); 3. **Kenkan** (T Quinn, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Dodo (4th), 11 Captivating, 12 Alisella Frolic, [illegible] (5th), To Love With Love (6th), 33 Floral Park, Francesca's Folly. 11 ran. [illegible] P Walwyn at Lambourn. Tote £3.20; £1.40, £3.50, £4.60. DF £51.20. Trio £72.20. CSF £46.77.

3.00 (1m) 1. **CAPE PIGEON** (D Holland, 7-1); 2. **Young Duke** (L Dettori, 5-1 fav); 3. **Persian Dawn** (R Perham, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Golden Ace, 6 Mafooka (5th), 12 Babe Sioux, Rivers Magic (4th), Scottish Park, 20 Euro Superstar (6th), 25 Green Gorgeous, Jazzy, Pampasa, 33 Shanghai Lil, 50 Fairy Sun. 15 ran. NR: Monedas. [illegible] L Cottrell at Cullompton. Tote £7.50; £2.50, £2.00, £10.50. DF £9.10. Trio £602.20. CSF [illegible].

3.30 (6f 212yd) 1. **SNOW KID** (Pat Eddery, 5-2 jt-fav, **Richard Evans's nap and Newmarket Correspondent's nap**); 2. **Peppiatt** (T Quinn, 7-1); 3. **Mr Spongo** (L Dettori, 5-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Byzantium (6th), Flag (4th), 8 Hazard, 100 Club Boucher (5th). 7 ran. 7l, 1½l, hd, 10l, 1l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote £3.10; £1.20, £5.20. DF £10.30. CSF £19.45.

4.00 (1m 4f) 1. **RAINWATCH** (Pat Eddery, 2-1 fav); 2. **Heart Of Armor** (T Quinn, 6-1); 3. **Spy Knoll** (J Reid, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Tom Tailor (6th), 8 Mohaf (4th), Nordic Crest, Protocol, 14 Northern Sun, 20 Deep Water (5th). 9 ran. NR: Badge Of Fame, Highly Prized. 7l, 1l, 2l, ½l, 1½l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote £3.40; £1.50, £2.30, £2.00. DF £13.90. Trio £16.00. CSF £15.28. Tricast £62.52.

4.30 (6f 212yd) 1. **DULCINEA** (D Harrison, 5-1); 2. **Mike's Double** (J Quinn, 11-2); 3. **Gelo** (S Drowne, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Free As A Bird, 5 Sand Cay (5th), 6 Prince Zando (6th), 10 Welcome Home (4th), 11 Rich Dancer, 33 Durablo George, Perchance To Dream. 10 ran. 1l, hd, 2l, ½l, 8l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote £6.50; £2.40, £1.80, £3.00. DF £16.90. Trio £57.40. CSF £26.71.

5.00 (5f) 1. **WHITE EMIR** (Pat Eddery, 9-2 jt-fav); 2. **Pointer** (Aimee Cook, 5-1); 3. **Half Tone** (Martin Dwyer, 9-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 jt-fav Bryan Robson (4th), 11-2 Mister Jolson (5th), 8 Golden Pound (6th), 10 Macgillycuddy, 12 Robellion. 8 ran. NR: Literary Society. Nk, ½l, 1½l, hd, ½l. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote £4.10; £1.90, £1.50, £1.50. DF £17.60. Trio £19.80. CSF £24.01. Tricast [illegible].

Placepot: £115.50.

Quadpot: £73.40

Epsom

Going: good to soft

6.40 (7f) 1. Calchas (S Sanders, Evens fav); 2. Indian Missile (100-30); 3. Overture (3-1). 5 ran. 5l, 3l. M Prescott. Tote £2.30; £1.10, £2.40. DF £2.10. CSF £4.30.

Chester

Going: soft (heavy in places)

6.50 (1m 2f 75yd) 1. Break The Rules ([illegible], 2-5 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2. Nicola's Princess (16-1); 3. Whittle Rock (9-2). 6 ran. 7l, 3½l. M Pipe. Tote £1.40; £1.30, £2.60. DF £5.20. CSF £7.53.

☐ Strawberry Roan has attracted support for the Budweiser Irish Derby. The Michael Tabor-owned filly was cut froom 6-1 from 5-1 after Frankie Dettori was confirmed as her rider. Strawberry Roan was supplemented at a cost of Ir£70,000.

Rimmer released

MARK RIMMER, who suffered a heavy fall from Irish Fiction at Warwick on Tuesday, was released from hospital yesterday. "I'm badly bruised but thankfully I am in one piece," he said.

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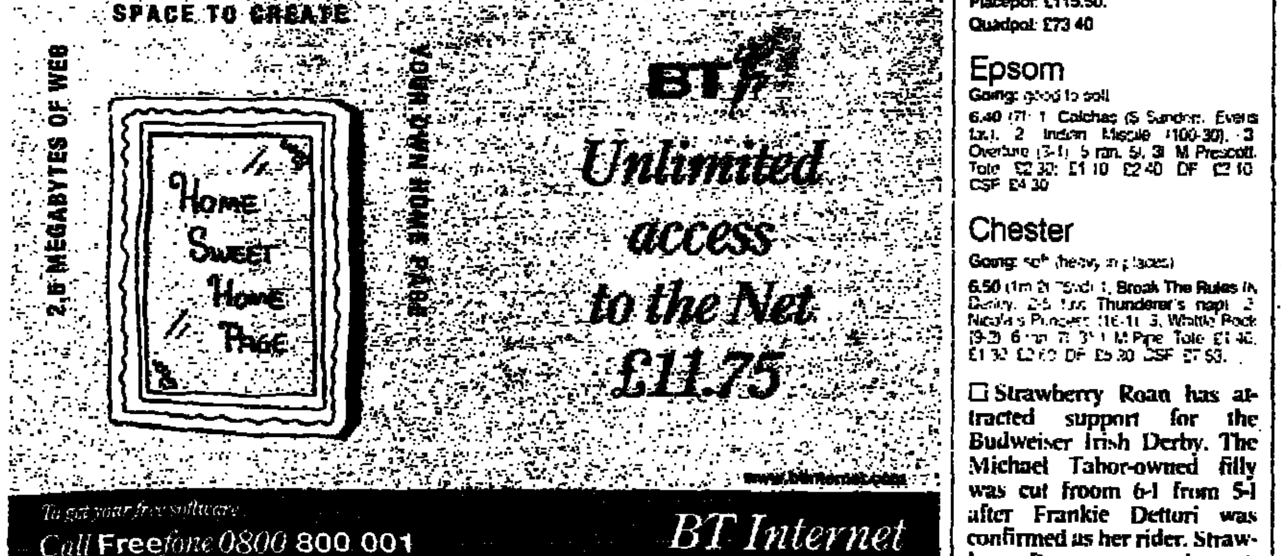

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ATHLETICS

Bailey hails emergence as sprinting's big noise

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

MICHAEL JOHNSON has been singing with the chorus line here, but Donovan Bailey chose to branch out solo. While Johnson joined Wilson Kipketer and Haile Gebrselassie, the other top-of-the-bill performers, in refusing to speculate over world records this season, Bailey came over loud and clear.

"Oh yeah, I'll run faster than I ran last year," Bailey said. Faster than the year in which he set a world record for 100 metres. Just to make sure that the message was received, he repeated it: "I will run faster, yes." He emphasised *will*. "I know I am very capable of running faster." He emphasised *very*. "Based on my strength and speed right now, I know I can do that." He emphasised *know*.

It was in the Olympic final in Atlanta last year that Bailey, from Canada, sliced 0.01sec off Leroy Burrell's world record of 9.85sec, set two years earlier. Here, Bailey was speaking before the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix meeting last night. Though he is 29, Bailey's wings are young and still developing. This is only his fourth season among the elite and each year he has run faster than the season before.

In 1994, Bailey's best was 10.03sec. It was 9.91sec in 1995 and 9.84sec last year. World champion in 1995 and Olympic champion in 1996, he is supremely confident of winning a second world title in Athens this summer. "I am going to be prepared, just like I always am, for the big show," he said.

Asked where the world record might come, Bailey said: "Anywhere, any time. With the right weather, right circumstances, right track, right atmosphere, it can happen any time."

Johnson, understandably after his ignominious defeat by Bailey in their 150 metres one-to-one challenge in Toronto three weeks ago, wanted only to emphasise the importance of rejoining the winning trail here, where he was due to compete in the 400 metres. The world record may become a target as the season progresses, but, for the moment, he was "taking everything day by day".

After winning world and Olympic titles at 200 and 400 metres and shattering the world record for the half-lap, the 400 metres world record is the one part of this section of athletics territory not yet surrendered to him. Whether or not he claims it, he has no interest in marching on to 100 metres ground.

"I have no intention of being a 100 metres runner," Johnson said. Though he did not say so in as many words, it would appear that Johnson has yielded to Bailey the unofficial "fastest human" title. It was this argument that prompted the Toronto challenge race, won by Bailey, who was leading when Johnson pulled up clutching a leg.

"I am very happy being a 200/400 metres runner," Johnson said. "I really do not believe I am of Olympic gold medal calibre, or world record calibre, as a 100 metres runner." So should Bailey be considered the world's fastest man? "If you would like to," Johnson said. "It does not matter to me."

From here, Bailey and Johnson move on to Sheffield, for the British grand prix on Sunday. While Johnson faces all four members of the Great Britain team that won the 4 x 400 metres relay at the European Cup last weekend, Bailey is up against Linford Christie over 100 metres.

There will be no change of mind from Christie with regard to Athens, according to a statement issued yesterday on his behalf. Despite reports to the contrary, Christie was said not to have entered the British trials in Birmingham from July 11-13 and was seeking to run in Germany that weekend.

TOM CASINO

A rare glimpse of relaxation from Tyson as he confronts the press with his accusations of bias and unfair treatment

Tyson consumed by all the rage

Srikumar Sen, in Las Vegas, finds the former champion in obsessive mood

It is a measure of Mike Tyson's stature that it remains virtually undiminished even after his humiliating defeat at the hands of Evander Holyfield last November. Tyson is, without question, the main man in the return with Holyfield here on Saturday.

Despite being the challenger, he will receive exactly the same as Holyfield, $30 million. The heavyweight contest at the 16,000-capacity MGM Grand Garden is sold out. It will be surprising if pay-per-view television figures do not reach new records as the public yearn to see not so much whether Holyfield can repeat his feat, but whether Tyson can prove that defeat was an aberration.

Tyson is the favourite at 2-1 on, while Holyfield is 1.8-1 against. No doubt this will change as gamblers make the most of Holyfield's price, but the greater part of the depressed communities up and down the United States will almost certainly be behind Tyson. A Tyson victory will be seen by them as a blow against the system.

Even many boxing followers attributed Tyson's failure in November to something other than Holyfield's superiority. Just as when James "Buster" Douglas defeated him in 1990, there are those who are still making excuses for Tyson, saying that he had not trained adequately.

It is amazing that this "loser, still champion" view persists. Muhammad Ali was considered the people's champion after his defeat by Joe Frazier, but that was a close fight and Ali was a political symbol as well. Tyson was annihilated by Holyfield and outside the ring his reputation was no more than that of a hellraiser.

Instead of taking heart from unswerving adulation and getting on with his job, Tyson is obsessed with raging against the forces he believes to be ranged against him. Despite marrying Monica Turner, a doctor, and having three daughters he dotes on — Gina, 7, Mikey, 6, and Rayna, 15 months — he remains somewhat despondent.

"They are going to be better off," he said of his children. "Their mother is a doctor and their father a rich man. I had an alcoholic and a pimp," he said when the press were assembled before him at the house of his promoter, Don King. "I think Don is a fool to even have you over to this house to talk with you. You write these things and the people that know and love me read it and they feel awful."

Of his performance against Holyfield, he said: "You have to remember, I was ripped off by my lawyers, I was going through a divorce, I was 260lb, I was drunk every day — that's where we started from.

"Everyone is against us. We don't have nobody on our side. The quotes are against us, the corporation is against us, the system is against us, the media is against us. We are still fighting and we are still doing well."

Tyson's depression was further aggravated when he gave $250,000 to a man in Las Vegas to help build a mosque and the man disappeared with the money. "I deserved it," Tyson said. "Maybe I was trying to buy my way into heaven."

Tyson likened himself to Sonny Liston: "Liston is someone I identify with," he said. "That may sound morbid and grim. He just wanted people to love and respect him. I deserve respect. You can't be in my presence if you don't respect me."

How this frame of mind will affect his boxing on Saturday no one can tell. Some believe it will make him more positive, others that it will cause his downfall when he finds things are not going his way.

GOLF

Birthday passes in major shadow

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

MOST golfers of Colin Montgomerie's pedigree have little to prove as they move into their mid-thirties. Almost without exception, the great players have been there, done it, won it and got the commemorative keyring by then. Not Montgomerie. He had his birthday on Monday and goes into his 35th year with back bent from the weight of unfulfilled ambition that continues to hang from his sturdy shoulders.

Montgomerie, who plays in the Peugeot French Open that starts today at Golf National here, was in reflective mood yesterday as he prepared to make his first tournament appearance since finishing second in the US Open two weeks ago. If he wins the £100,000 on offer to the winner, he will close the gap between himself and Ian Woosnam, leader of the European money-list, to £70,000 — a mere bagatelle.

To say that Montgomerie is not really interested in what happens this week is to overstate the case grossly — he is a competitor first, second and last — but it is not stretching the truth to state that he is a man on a mission, a mission that will not be achieved until he wins his first major championship. Against that, little things like the French Open and winning the European order of merit for the fifth year running tend to pall a touch.

His runner's-up spot at the US Open means that he has now gone agonisingly close four times to casting aside the malign spell that the fates have woven for him in majors. He was third in the US Open in 1992 and was involved in play-offs for the US Open in 1994 and the US PGA in 1995. He wants to win one of world golf's big four titles with a fervour that verges on desperation.

His next chance will come next month in the Open Championship at Royal Troon, where James, his father, retires as secretary on August 31.

It would be nice, he said, to win it for Dad. What he did not say, but undoubtedly thought, was that it would be nice to win it for himself.

Nicholas in the mood to make up for defeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALISON Nicholas has an early opportunity to make amends for the disappointment of losing a play-off in France last week when she defends her title in the £110,000 Guardian Irish Open at Luttrellstown Castle in Dublin tomorrow.

Nicholas, who lost to Hiromi Kobayashi, from Japan, at the first play-off hole in the Evian Masters last Saturday, is one of four members of last year's Solheim Cup team in the field of 126. "I have not had a top ten finsih in America this year, but my confidence is growing," she said.

Two other Britons — Joanne Morley, from Cheshire, and Dale Reid, from Scotland — join the Barcelona-based Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France in the group of Solheim Cup players in the field. Morley finished fourth in France last week behind de Lorenzi, who is back to the form that earned her a record seven victories in 1988.

De Lorenzi won the Swiss Open two weeks ago and leads the American Express merit table with winnings of £53,000 from five tournaments this year. "Winning the British Open has always been my ambition," she said. "Now I have the chance of winning the merit title for a third time." De Lorenzi, who needs two more titles to reach the 20 wins necessary for honorary membership of the Tour.

☐ Antonio Garrido, inspired by his son Ignacio's victory in the Volvo German Open last Sunday, will attempt to make it a family double when he tees off in the Manadens Affarer Seniors Open near Stockholm tomorrow. The Spaniards would become only the second father and son to achieve Ryder Cup status if Ignacio maintains his form to make the European team to play the United States at Valderrama in September.

Antonio, second in the Ryder Collingtree Seniors last week and third in the European seniors rankings, is among the favoured starters at the Fagelbro course this week. His chances of a first title in three years are improved by the absence of Europe's leading senior, Tommy Horton.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

LUCERNE, Switzerland: International meeting (winners and British): **Men: 100m:** 1, *K Brokenburr (US) 10.11sec*, 3, *J Mackie (GB) 10.33*. **400m:** 1, H Reynolds (US) 44.45; 3, J Baulch (GB) 45.63. **110m hurdles:** 1, A Does (US) 13.46; 2, C Jackson (GB) 13.55. **Triple jump:** 1, A *Aseledchenko (Russ) 16.98m*. **Women: 100m:** 1, C Pintusevitch (Ukr) 11.08sec. **800m:** S Jongmans (Holl) 2min 01.67sec. **1,500m:** 1, A Weyermann (Switz) 4:04.85. **100m hurdles:** 1, L Enqvist (Swe) 12.85sec. **High jump:** 1, A Bradburn (US) 1.88m. **Pole vault:** A Müller (Ger) 4.25m.

TURIN, Italy: International meeting (winners and British). **Men: 100m:** D Mitchell (US) 10.20sec. **400m:** 1, D Kamoga (Uga) 44.77; 3, M Hylton (GB) 46.49. **800m:** A *Longo (It) 1min 46.37sec*. **3,000m:** *1, G Di Napoli (It) 7:49.31*. **110m hurdles:** A Kislykh (Russ) 13.78sec. **400m hurdles:** S Matete (Zam) 48.62. **High jump:** G Fedeikov (Russ) 2.21m. **Long jump:** J Beckford (Jam) 8.49m. **Hammer:** B Kiss (Hun) 81.62m. **Women: 100m:** M Jones (US) 11.08sec. **400m:** S Richards (Jam) 50.61. **110m hurdles:** C Tuzzi (It) 13.18. **Long jump:** F May (It) 6.97m. **Pole vault:** E Szemeredi (Hun) 4.20m.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 10 Minnesota 5; New York Yankees 12 Detroit 9; Boston 9 Toronto 6; Chicago White Sox 4 Kansas City 0, Baltimore 6 Milwaukee 2; Anaheim 7 Texas 6, Oakland 4 Seattle 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 4 San Diego 1, Cincinnati 7 Montreal 6 (10inns); Florida 4 Philadelphia 1, New York Mets 6 Atlanta 5, Pittsburgh 8 Houston 3; St Louis 7 Chicago 2; Colorado 8 Los Angeles 2

CRICKET

Second Test match

West Indies v Sri Lanka

KINGSTOWN (final day of five): West Indies drew with Sri Lanka

WEST INDIES: First Innings 147 (K R Pushpakumara 5 for 41). Second Innings 343 (B C Lara 115; M Muralitharan 5 for 113)

SRI LANKA: First Innings 222 (S T Jayasuriya 90, C L Hooper 5-26)

Second Innings

S T Jayasuriya b Walsh	17
R S Mahanama c Browne b Bishop	29
M S Atapattu b Walsh	10
P A de Silva b Walsh	78
*A Ranatunga not out	72
†R S Kaluwitharana hit wicket b Walsh	2
S Ranatunga run out	0
H D P K Dharmasena c Browne b Ambrose	7
M Muralitharan c Holder b Ambrose	0
S C de Silva not out	1
Extras (lb 3, nb 14)	17
Total (8 wkts)	233

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-55, 3-118, 4-189, 5-193, 6-208, 7-231, 8-231

BOWLING: Ambrose 15-1-51-2; Walsh 24-2-73-4; Rose 6-1-24-0; Bishop 14-1-61-1; Hooper 9-3-21-0

Man of the match: C L Hooper

West Indies win series 1-0

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D B Cowie (New Zealand).

TOUR MATCH: The Parks (first day of three): British Universities v Australians. No play due to rain.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three). **Sittingbourne:** *Kent v Worcestershire*; **Kibworth CC:** Leicestershire v Hampshire. **Collingham CC:** Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire. **North Perrott:** Somerset v Lancashire. *No play due to rain.*

AON RISK TROPHY (one day). **Haywards Heath:** *MCC Young Cricketers 222-8 (J R Carpenter 4-22)*; Sussex 182. MCC win by 40 runs. **Farnsfield:** Yorkshire 167-9. Nottinghamshire 168-7. Nottinghamshire win by three wickets.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: * Forest 182-3dec (R Marshall 114 not out) Wellingborough 106-6.- Hyde Park HS (SA) 151-8dec * Alleynes 152-1 (S Payne 115 not out): * The Leys 178-8dec and 120-1dec Perse 108 and 101-4 * *denotes home team*

CYCLING

TOUR OF CATALONIA: Sixth stage (Casa Tarradellas to Platja d'Aro, 160km): 1, F Escartin (Sp) 4hr 1min 40sec; 2, D Clavero (Sp) at 8sec; 3, C Boardman (GB) at 9; 4, P Tonkov (Russ) 14; 5, E Zaina (It) 23; 6, M Serrano (Sp) same time. Seventh stage (Gerona to Pal, 237km): 1, B Hamburger (Den) 7hr 2min 22sec; 2, Clavero at 8sec; 3, *M Zarrabeitia (Sp) at 11*; 4, *Escartin 29*; 5, A Casero (Sp) same time; 6, A de las Cuevas (Fr) 39. **British position:** 24, Boardman 7min 11sec. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Escartin 26hr 5min 59sec; 2, Casero at 2sec; 3, *Zarrabeitia 28*; 4, *Clavero 53*; 5, Tonkov 1min 4sec; 6, De las Cuevas 1:19. **British position:** 13, Boardman 5:06

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND: Ninth stage (Wetzikon to Davos, 195.9km): 1, O Camenzind (Switz) 5hr 17min 22sec; 2, J Ullrich (Ger) at 1min 6sec; 3, L Piepoli (It) same time; 4, F Garcia Casas (Sp) 1:14; 5, S Garzelli (It) 2:05; 6, D Nelissen (Holl) same time. **Leading overall positions:** 1, C Agnolutto (Fr) 33hr 38min 2sec; 2, Camenzind 2min 8sec; 3, Ullrich 4:20; 5, D Etxebarria (Sp) 5:32; 5, R Meier (Switz) 6:18; 6, *Garcia Casas 6:22*

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Asian zone. Group four: Oman 2 Macau 0; Japan 3 Nepal 0 (in Tokyo).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	5	5	0	0	30	0	15
Oman	5	4	0	1	13	1	12
Nepal	5	0	1	4	1	17	1
Macau	5	0	1	4	1	27	1

MALAYSIA: World youth championship: **Second round:** Brazil 10 Belgium 0; France 1 Mexico 0 (both at Kuching). Uruguay 3 United States 0; Ireland 2 Morocco 1 (both at Shah Alam).

GOLF

HANDSWORTH: Bridget Jackson Bowl: Leading scores: 142: K Macintosh (Aus) 69, 73. **143:** *R Bailey (Whittington Heath)* 72, 71. **147:** J Collingham (Sherwood Forest) 74, 73; L Tupholme (Northcliff) 74, 73, L Walters (Chevin) 71, 76. **150:** N Evans (Pleasington) 75, 75, D Rushworth (Woodsome Hall) 74, 76, S Naden (Woodsome Hall) 71, 79

PORTMARNOCK, Ireland: European amateur team championship: Early first qualifying round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): **70:** K Nolan. **77:** J Tornnee (Swe), N Zitny (Austria). **78:** N Edwards. **80:** G Rankin. **81:** J Rose.

WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, E Els (SA) 9.95pts ave; 2, T Woods 9.68; 3, C Montgomerie (GB) 9.61; 4, G Norman (Aus) 9.51; 5, N Price (Zim) 9.24; 6, T *Lehman 8.96*; 7, S Elkington (Aus) 8.74; 8, M Ozaki (Japan) 8.11; 9, M O'Meara 7.53; 10, N Faldo (GB) 7.07

VOLVO ORDER OF MERIT (European Tour) (GB and Ire unless stated): 1, I *Woosnam £380,783.56*; 2, B *Langer (Ger) £282,009.87*; 3, E Els (SA) £239,041.30; 4, D Clarke £202,713.24; 5, C Montgomerie £201,758.99; 6, I Garrido (Sp) £196,374.47; 7, L Westwood £183,969.41; 8, M James £173,203.86; 9, M A Martin (Sp) £173,026.66; 10, J M Olazábal (Sp) £166,360.66; 11, R McFarlane £160,486.29; 12, R Green (Aus) £152,970.00; 13, R Goosen (SA) £150,279.37

RUGBY LEAGUE

SYDNEY: State of Origin series: Queensland 18 New South Wales 12.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Free State Cheetahs 30 British Isles XV 52 (in Bloemfontein). Waikato Under-21 18 Scotland Development XV 41 (at Waikato)

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Postponed: King's Lynn v Ipswich.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter 50 Stoke 40. **Reading:** Four-team championship: *Qualifying round (fifth and final leg):* Arena Essex 27 Reading 26; Oxford 25 Newport 18. **Final aggregate scores:** Oxford 113; Reading 95; Exeter 94, Arena Essex 94; Newport 84. **Postponed:** Hull v Skegness v Sheffield v Stoke

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Semi-final, second leg: **Postponed:** Poole v Coventry.

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Shuttlecubs (Wolverhampton and Long Eaton) 45 Anglian Angels (Ipswich and King's Lynn) 28; Western Warriors 43 *Belle Vue Colts 35*; St Austell 47 Belle Vue Colts 31

WATER POLO

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Birkenhead 8 Rotherham 11, Coventry 7 Nova 7; Penguin 11 Polytechnic 9, Sutton 8 Bristol 13, Birkenhead 6 Nova 7, Polytechnic 11 Bristol 14, Sutton 11 Penguin 9.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble Chance (one dividend only), 15pts £63.65, half-time result £1,198.10 (21pts max). Four draws £7.15 (paid on 3). Ten homes £1.60. Six aways £1

VERNONS: Treble chance: 15pts £20.95 (One dividend only see Rule 4.4. Second *and third dividends cancelled*)

ZETTERS: Treble Chance (one dividend only): 15 pts £3. Three draws £18. Eight homes £1. Six aways £1.20. Lucky numbers 21 19 10 26 25 23

FIXTURES

CRICKET

Tour match

11.0, second day of three

THE PARKS: British Universities v Australians

Britannic Assurance county championship

11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum

SOUTHEND: Essex v Derbyshire

SWANSEA: Glamorgan v Sussex

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

LUTON: Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v *Lancashire*

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Middlesex

Axa Life League

5.0, 40 overs

THE OVAL: Surrey v Nottinghamshire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of three): **Belper Meadows:** Derbyshire v Glamorgan. **Boldon CC:** Durham v Surrey. *Shirehampton CC:* Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire. **Sittingbourne:** Kent v Worcestershire. **Kibworth CC:** Leicestershire v Hampshire. **Collingham CC:** Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire. **North Perrott:** Somerset v Lancashire. **Moseley:** Warwickshire v Middlesex

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Eastbourne (7.30). Premier League: **Postponed:** Sheffield v Glasgow

TENNIS: All England Championships (at Wimbledon).

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This ruling at the Spring Foursomes concerns the procedures in the case of an inadequate claim:

```
            ♠K 10 4
            ♥3
            ♦A 5 4
            ♣Q 10
♠7 6 3                ♠Q J
♥—           N        ♥—
♦9 8       W   E      ♦Q 7 6 3
♣J 4 3 2     S        ♣7 6 5
            ♠5
            ♥7
            ♦K J 10
            ♣A K 9 8
```

Hearts are trumps. Declarer needs the rest of the tricks. West is on lead. Before West could play, the declarer (Howard Cohen) laid down his hand claiming the rest of the tricks. He had noticed that he could throw a diamond from dummy on the third round of clubs, and then he thought he would be able to ruff all his losers in dummy. That was sloppy thinking — even though he had no obvious losers he did not have enough winners. It is a common error — you should count winners as well as losers.

At this point the tournament director was called. The laws on inadequate claims by declarer say that any benefit of the doubt goes to the defence, and that means the declarer has to go down if he could do so by playing in "a careless or inferior way". However, he is not required to play in an "irrational" way. Cohen's partner Gunnar Hallberg, a Sweden international, pointed out that West would have to return a spade, as a red suit would give the declarer the extra trick he needed. Then it was obvious that before trying to guess the red suits the declarer would ruff a spade in hand and, with the fortuitous lie, establish the ten of spades.

However, the tournament director ruled that the contract was one down, in my view correctly. The reason is that a player who claims in this position might take the inferior line of playing on a red suit, or might carelessly not notice that the spade queen and jack had fallen on the second and third round of the suit.

☐ In the Open series at the European championships, Italy are still in the lead, now with 502 points. Great Britain are ninth, after beating Israel 16-14 on Tuesday, but losing 22-8 to Norway yesterday. In the women's series, Britain are leading with 324 points, two ahead of France. With six rounds to play, Britain look certain to qualify for the world championships later this year.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABRIN
a. Without a nose
b. A poison bean
c. To resile

FLOBERT
a. A story-teller
b. A mobile porch
c. A cartridge

COVENTRATE
a. Sharing a stomach
b. To bomb
c. To share-crop

CHIPPEWA
a. An bad-tempered woman
b. An Algonquian
c. A desert storm

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New system

At the start of the Novgorod tournament the organisers announced a new way of scoring points for the final standings. Instead of the traditional one point for a win, half a point for a draw and no points for a loss, they wanted to introduce the alternative of three points for a win, one point for a draw and nothing for a loss. In fact, had they done so, the final standings would hardly have changed. Scored traditionally, Novgorod ended with Kasparov on 6½ points; Kramnik 6; Short 5; Bareev 4½; Topalov and Gelfand 4. Under the alternative system Kasparov would have scored 17; Kramnik 15; Short 14; Bareev, Topalov and Gelfand 10. The very slight variation, affecting only Bareev's position, makes it clear that it is futile to introduce radical alternative scoring systems without widespread prior discussion and acceptance.

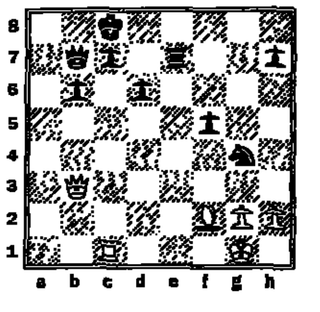
Here is one of Short's wins from his final spurt.

White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Nigel Short
Novgorod, June 1997

English Defence

1	d4	e6
2	c4	b6
3	e4	Bb7
4	Bd3	Nc6
5	Ne2	Nb4
6	Nbc3	Nxd3+
7	Qxd3	d6
8	0-0	Ne7
9	d5	Qd7
10	f4	g6
11	Nd4	0-0-0
12	b4	Bg7
13	b5	Bxd4+
14	Qxd4	f5
15	Re1	Rhe8
16	Bb2	fxe4
17	Nxe4	Ng8
18	Nc3	Qf7
19	Re3	exd5
20	Nxd5	Rxe3
21	Qxe3	Bxd5
22	cxd5	Qxd5
23	a4	Kb8
24	a5	Qxb5
25	axb6	axb6
26	Bd4	Qc6
27	Rc1	Qb7
28	f5	gxf5
29	Qg5	Re8
30	Qh5	Qe4
31	Bf2	Nf6
32	Qf7	Qe7
33	Qa2	Ng4
34	Ra1	Qe4
35	Qa7+	Kc8
36	Rc1	Qb7
37	Qa4	Re7
38	Qb3	White resigns

Diagram of final position



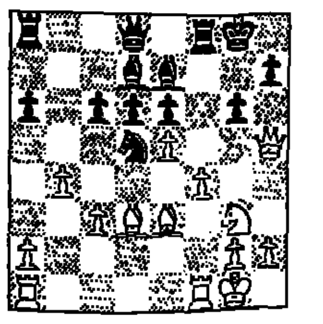
Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Kennedy — Staunton, London 1844.

White has a powerful concentration of force on the kingside and now breaks through to win quickly. Can you see how?

Solution on page 50

CRICKET

Moody prepares to extend power base at Worcestershire

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TWO years ago this month, Tom Moody took over as the captain of Worcestershire on the first morning of a county championship match against Lancashire, scored a century and led them to an innings victory. Today, in the corresponding fixture at New Road, the gifted Australian will ponder doing even more.

Moody has been a popular captain since the abrupt, mid-season resignation of Tim Curtis and there is now a possibility that he will be asked to undertake an additional role as coach. The club's cricket committee met last night and the secretary, Mike Vockins, confirmed that the elevation of Moody was one plausible solution to the imminent departure of Dave Houghton to Zimbabwe.

"We are looking at it with a clean slate and it is conceivable Tom might be sounded out about combining the jobs," Vockins said. "It hasn't been put to him yet, but whatever we decide, the link with Tom Moody is a key one. He is contracted to us until the end of 1998 and we see him as a very important figure in planning the future."

Approaches, some official but the majority informal, have come from many sources since Houghton announced he was to become the national coach in his homeland. A number of the applicants are from overseas, but a more obvious alternative to Moody is Phil Neale, a former captain of the club, who still lives in Worcester and may wish to return after a spell coaching Warwickshire.

Moody defied the after-effects of flu to make a critical century in the NatWest Trophy win over Holland on Tuesday, but is "still not 100 per cent", according to Vockins. "He looks pale and a shade unwell," he said, "but, being Tom, he will play tomorrow."

The circumstances are somewhat different from 1995. Then, Lancashire had reached mid-June as the only unbeaten side in the championship. Now, they are one of five who have yet to win a game and they come to New Road in considerable disarray through injuries.

Lancashire will be led today by their third-choice captain. As this is Michael Atherton, it is not in itself a calamity, but the continued absence of both Mike Watkinson and Wasim Akram is severely disrupting the balance of the side. Jason Gallian is also missing today, while Neil Fairbrother has a late test.

Doubts surrounding the fitness of Mike Smith were dismissed yesterday by Gloucestershire, who presently lie third. "He had a slight groin problem, but it is nothing. He will definitely play at Luton," Philip August, the cricket secretary, said. Good news for the surprise success story of the season, perhaps, but bad news for the team that, equally surprisingly, find themselves bottom of the table.

Northamptonshire will not relish facing Smith at Wardown Park. Their last championship game there, against Essex two seasons ago, finished inside two days. Northamptonshire won it despite being bowled out for 46 in the first innings and 23 wickets were shared by the left-armers, Mark Ilott and Paul Taylor.

Smith, another left-armer, is the leading wicket-taker this season with 42. He swings the ball later than either Ilott or Taylor and far more than Alan Mullally. One more impressive analysis ought to see him promoted to the England Test side at Old Trafford next week.

One England man missing today will be Nasser Hussain, who will be rested from Essex's game against troubled Derbyshire, at Southend, to have further cortisone treatment on a chronic tennis elbow condition. Hussain said, however, that he will definitely be available for Old Trafford.

Derbyshire's cause will not be helped by the withdrawal of Kim Barnett, their former captain, who suffered a badly bruised thumb in the NatWest Trophy defeat of Lincolnshire. His place could be taken by either John Owen or Tim Tweats.

The meeting of the past two champion counties at Grace Road sees the return of Mullally for Leicestershire and Allan Donald for Warwickshire, while the present leaders, Middlesex, are at full strength for their trip to Headingley, with Owais Shah playing his first championship game of the season. Middlesex are beginning to look strong, but this will be a test for them, especially if Mark Ramprakash, to whom captaincy must seem simple so far, loses the toss.

Moody: popular

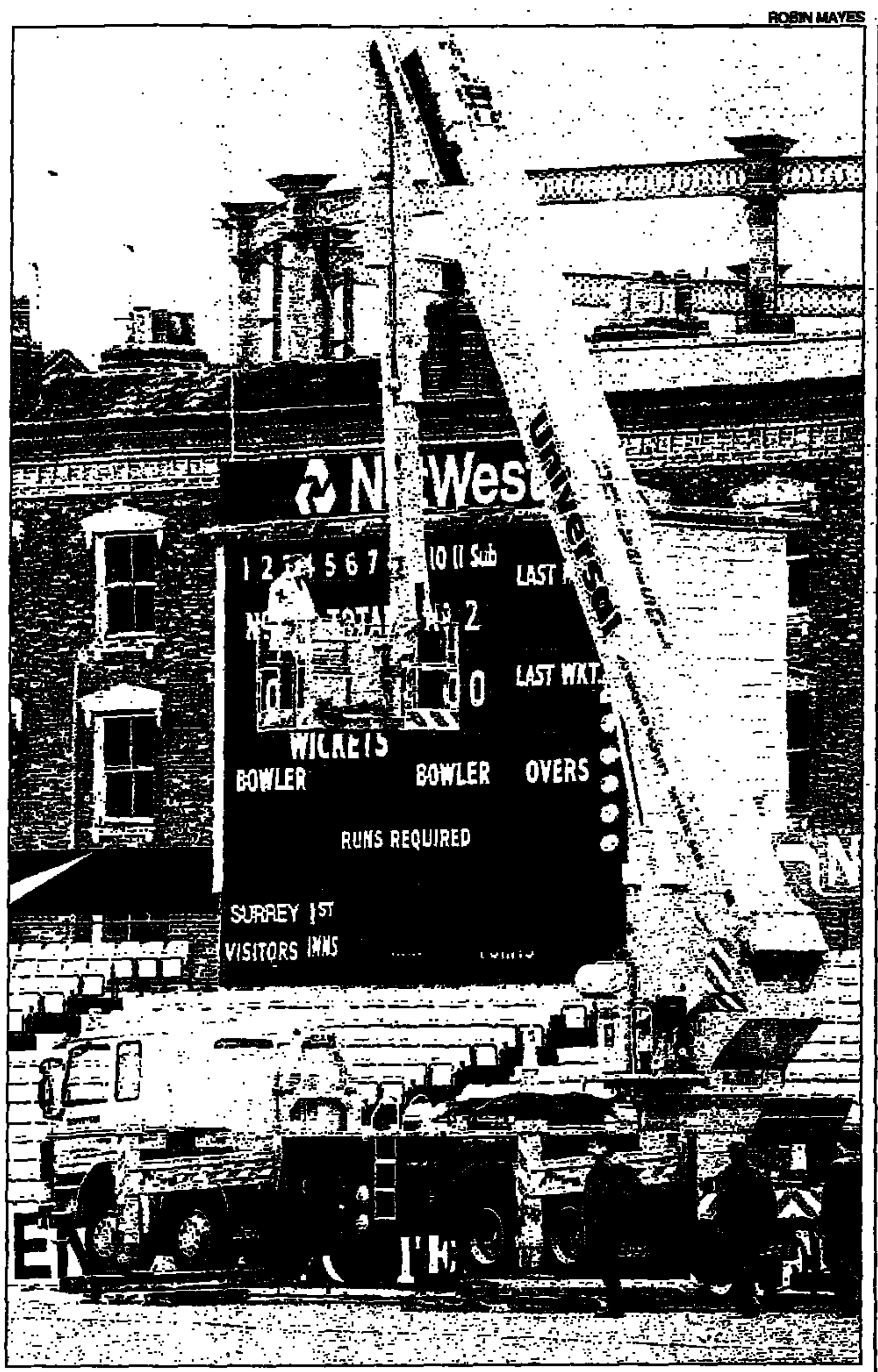
TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Middlesex (9)	7	4	1	2	17	28	115
Kent (4)	7	4	2	1	14	28	109
Gloucs (13)	7	3	2	2	13	28	95
Glamorgan (10)	7	3	1	3	17	21	95
Essex (5)	6	3	1	2	14	24	92
Notts (17)	7	3	1	3	5	25	87
Hampshire (14)	8	2	2	4	21	18	83
Yorkshire (6)	7	2	2	3	16	24	81
Leicestershire (1)	7	1	0	6	19	28	81
Somerset (11)	8	1	2	5	16	29	76
Worcs (7)	6	1	0	5	15	21	72
Warwickshire (8)	6	2	1	3	10	17	68
Durham (18)	7	1	2	4	14	23	65
Sussex (12)	7	0	2	5	12	26	53
Surrey (3)	7	0	2	5	15	20	50
Derbyshire (2)	7	0	3	4	10	26	48
Lancashire (15)	7	0	4	3	12	18	39
Northants (16)	6	0	2	4	7	17	36

(1996 positions in brackets)

☐ Worcestershire's record includes eight points as side batting last in match where scores finished level

ROBIN MAYES



Cranes assist in the installation of floodlights at the Oval for the match tonight

Floodlit cricket gets first test

By Ivo Tennant

THE first competitive floodlit match between two first-class counties will take place at the Oval this evening, when Surrey play Nottinghamshire. At stake is not so much four points in the Axa Life League as the very future of such cricket in the unpredictable climate of England.

The weather forecast for today is not encouraging for a contest that has cost £100,000 to stage. To break even, Surrey reckon that they have to attract a crowd of 10,000, including members. They have sold almost 4,000 tickets in advance, will have nearly 2,000 corporate hospitality guests and are hopeful that many more spectators will attend after work.

John Major has accepted an invitation, as, assuming that the wind is not blustery, have a group of skydivers.

Paul Sheldon, the Surrey chief executive, stressed that the club was insured. "If we are affected by the weather, then we will try again," he insisted. "We knew this would not be a huge commercial bonanza, but we want to attract a new audience who will then come to our other matches. It is just one of our initiatives this season. Starting in July, for instance, anyone under 18 will be given free entry to all championship matches."

The four floodlights, which have been put up at a cost of £40,000, have been paid for by sponsorship. Local residents, whom Surrey have kept informed of their plans, have been assured that the generators and lights will be turned off by 11pm.

Erecting the floodlights has roughened up the ground. Sheldon, however, said that he had received no objections to his initiative from the club's members or, indeed, from residents.

If there is no play today, the match will be abandoned, rather than postponed. "There is a free day next Tuesday, but our Test players will be required by England," Sheldon said, "and it is too late to reorganise another Sunday match this season."

There has been one previous, unsuccessful attempt at staging a floodlit event at the Oval. In September 1994, a six-a-side competition, involving some of the best-known cricketers of the 1970s and 1980s, was abandoned after the first of two scheduled days when the players' demands for immediate cash payment were not met.

Old rivals revert to hype for bore of the roses

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Line and Length

There is a prize on offer this week, which lies within my gift as sole arbiter. If anybody can find a more hideous chunk of prose than the text quoted beneath, he or she can claim a bounty of one hundred guineas, freshly minted, which will be paid on demand. I do not expect the postman to come panting up the steps.

"The uniqueness of this clash, coupled with the cricketing fervour of the supporters, guarantees an unforgettable event. Day-night cricket is a regular feature in Australia, South Africa and India. Now the fans of Lancashire and Yorkshire have the opportunity to capture the spirit of the nineties and turn one-day cricket into a party.

"The match will feature coloured kit, rock music to announce each batsman and perhaps even a live band. It will be a fun day out with a vibrant display of partying and participation, where flags, banners and musical instruments will be used as the essential props to create a carnival atmosphere."

You have to admit that it sounds exciting. "Fun day out", "unforgettable event", "carnival atmosphere", "spirit of the nineties" — the only thing missing is our old friend, a truly historic occasion. Even the dreary footsoldiers of new Labour, who snubbed Royal Ascot because people enjoy themselves there, might be tempted.

Once you have got beyond the dreadful language, what, exactly, does this guff portend? What can possibly be so much fun, so unforgettable, so — well, they said it — unique. It is, in fact, a one-day match of 50 overs a side at Old Trafford on Monday July 21. Played under floodlights, it will start at 3.30pm and finish round about 11.15pm. Both teams will take it in turns to bat for 25 overs each and there is £10,000 for the winners.

The press release was composed by Day Night Promotions, a London-based company, which badgered the clubs into putting the game on. How they managed to persuade them to give their assent to the "unique" tag is a mystery. After all, Lancashire and Yorkshire have been jousting since Gladstone saved young ladies in Whitechapel. There is also reference to a "Roses clash", a device known in legal circles as "passing off".

Put simply, it is a silly attempt to dignify a beer match, and the timing could have been better. It seemed apt that, shortly after Lancashire endorsed this statement, their players went down to a fourth defeat in seven championship matches, when Glamorgan bowled them out in 14 overs. Either they are indifferent to their increasingly ragged public image or they are fearlessly breaking new ground.

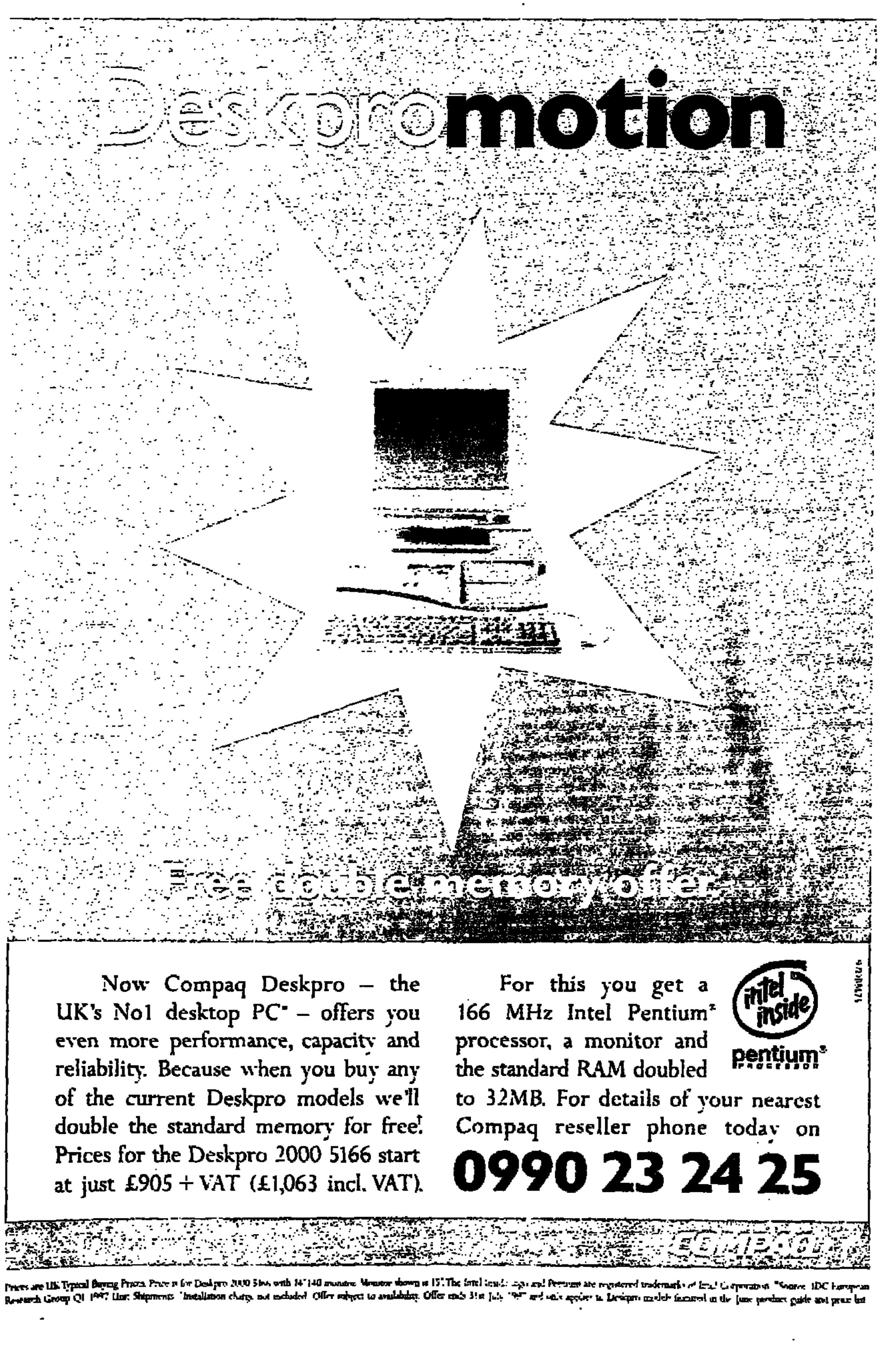
An ideal season for Lancashire would probably be a championship of 36 one-day matches, with the occasional first-class friendly against Yorkshire thrown in for old times' sake. Laugh at your peril; that is the way the game is going. It is becoming harder and harder to find people within the game who are prepared to stand up for first-class cricket.

As is the way with many things in these image-conscious times, if something is not relevant to young people, it may as well not exist. It does not seem to have occurred to them that, if young people want to "party" and listen to disagreeably loud music, the last place they will look for it is at a cricket match. The rest of us, while acknowledging that times change, are happy to keep it that way.

Lancashire is a big club, rich and — in its own terms — successful, so it has no excuses. After winning the NatWest Trophy last year, to complete a double of knockout cups, a senior member of the club hierarchy said, with some feeling: "You lot go on about how bad we are, but we've had a great year. If we won the championship, there'd be nobody there to watch." There it is, straight from the horse's mouth.

This is the club that has given England its present captain, coach and tour manager, yet the finest service that Lancashire has provided this summer is that press release, which talks of a vibrant display of partying. As Sir Kingsley Amis might have observed: "A what display of partying? A vibrant what of partying? A vibrant display of what?"

For cheering us all up, when they might be excused for thinking only of themselves in their present desperate situation, Lancashire deserve a nation's thanks.



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Graf's career moves on apace

Australian coaches have been having a hard time of it in England lately, what with Geoff Marsh struggling to get his Test stars into some kind of form, Les Stillman being effectively demoted after Dean Jones's abrupt departure from Derbyshire and Dav Whatmore and Dave Gilbert coming under increasing pressure with underachieving Lancashire and Surrey.

It is pleasing to report, therefore, that one of their number has just gone home with his reputation intact, if not enhanced. Shaun Graf, the former Victoria fast bowler, who is now his state's cricket supremo, stood in at Hampshire while Malcolm Marshall was otherwise engaged with West Indies and could not have made a better impression.

"We were delighted with him," Tony Baker, the Hampshire chief executive, said. "We have all heard so much about the Australian methods and it was very interesting to find out more about them at close hand and see how they worked in practice.

"What impressed me most was that he was not dogmatic about their way being better than ours. In the past, we've been told that we must do this and we must do that, but he appreciated the peculiar constraints there are in county cricket. We all know that, in an ideal world, we would not play so much, but we are the only professional circus and we have to pay the players.

"It was a matter of gently moulding things to fit the situation and it was a very worthwhile exercise. Shaun was very honest, very forthright and all our guys felt that they learnt a lot from him. That is not to put down Malcolm Marshall. He is Hampshire through and through and we think the world of him."

EXTRA

COVER

Marshall must have been pleased with his stand-in, too. He returned last week after deciding that Hampshire had been messed about enough by the West Indies' seemingly interminable Test programme to find a Hampshire side that many people had tipped for the wooden spoon sitting comfortably at seventh in the championship table.

KEEN memory

Memories of Brian Johnston's days at New College, Oxford, will be evoked on Saturday when his widow, Pauline, opens a new £750,000 pavilion that will bear his name. Johnners himself helped to contribute towards the £300,000 that has so far been raised to pay for the development, which retained the profile of the old pavilion but involved a complete refurbishment of the interior.

The old boy, who would have been 85 this week, would have been pleased to know that, as well as accommodating all sports with a gym and squash club, it will cater for KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now), a charity that encourages children with physical and learning difficulties.

Mrs Johnston will unveil a portrait of Johnners donated by the artist, Jocelyn Galsworthy, ring a brass bell that she has presented and had suitably inscribed and read from a letter that he sent to his mother and stepfather in 1932.

"I'm playing tons of cricket, literally every day for the whole term," he wrote, "and am in quite good form. I made 14 for the Butterflies on Monday and 55 for the Allsorts against the college servants on Friday, carrying my bat throughout the innings. But on Sunday, I didn't get an innings for the Ramblers against the staff college. The latter was a rotten game and we were very bad, but we had an excellent lunch."

Missing the cut

There is a tug-of-war going on at Lashings Cricket Club in Kent over the services of Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain, who is about to start playing again after recovering from an operation to cure a serious elbow injury, which he suffered while playing in South Africa for Northern Transvaal.

Richardson, who will ease himself back by turning out for the headmaster's XI against the pupils at Sutton Valence School on Tuesday, helped Lashings, an offshoot of a Maidstone sports cafe, to win promotion to the Central Kent League last year.

However, they have won every game that they have played without him this season and now the second-team captain, one James Sandbrook-Price, otherwise known as Handbag, is arguing that, under club rules, Richardson must prove himself in his side first. The first-team captain, a no-nonsense Australian called Rocky McNee, is expected to prevail.

Sobers signs up

It may seem a trifle premature with the Ashes series only two Tests old, but they will be turning their thoughts towards the England winter tour of the Caribbean at the Lensbury Club at Teddington, Middlesex, tomorrow night, when diners will pay £49 a head for an evening with Sir Garfield Sobers.

For that, they will get a real taste of the Caribbean with a steel band, rum punch, plus the great man's reminiscences on the past and, more significantly, on what lies in store for England against a developing West Indies team.

Sir Garry will also be selling one of a limited number of bats autographed by the top ten run-makers in Test history — Border, Gavaskar, Gooch, Miandad, Richards, Gower, Boycott, Cowdrey, Greenidge, and, of course, Sobers himself. They cost £400, but clubs have been known to raise upwards of £3,500 for them at auction.

☐ *Two extracts from the Gloucestershire programme for the Axa Life League match against Middlesex at Bristol last Sunday.*

"Like all true Gloucestershire supporters," Colin Sexstone, chief executive, writes, "I was horrified by the scenes of violence and foul language during and after the game against Worcestershire ... Once again, excessive alcohol was the major factor."

"A 'booze cruise' around the docks," Philip August, cricket secretary, writes, "helped to restore team spirit after the Worcestershire defeat ... an event enjoyed by players and administrative staff alike, which proves Mark Alleyne's shrewd powers of building team spirit within the whole club."

هكذا من الاصل

FOOTBALL: BRAZILIAN FLAIR LIGHTS UP YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Adailton's launch swells galaxy of shooting stars

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Overseas View

ADAILTON against Michael Owen? If the England Under-20 team prevail today against Argentina in the world youth championship in Malaysia, the prospect is imminent — not that comparisons should be stretched too far. The 19-year-old Brazilian striker, Adailton Martins, to give him his full name, is already a refulgent star on whom the covetous eyes of innumerable European scouts and agents are fixed.

Owen has yet to reach such heights, but he is only 17. He scored a magnificent solo goal against Mexico and those of us lucky enough to see his astonishingly cool debut as a substitute for Liverpool against Wimbledon late last season will be aware of his precocious abilities.

Adailton, however, is something else again. Note that the young man from south Brazil did not even begin to play football until he was 15. So much for the terrifying ambition of Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's head of coaching, who is now in Malaysia, that coaching should begin with five-year-olds.

In this context, the words of the Brazil coach, Antonio Barroso, are relevant. "Frankly, I think Adailton is a Brazilian type of player, one, that is to say, who is born with football inside him, whom there's no need to teach anything at all. With players like this, the only job for a coach is to make them work, mould their talent and lead them to the highest level."

Adailton, a slight figure, scored nine goals in Brazil's first three games in the tournament, six of them against the hapless South Koreans. Yet he is no prima donna. He works hard for the team, brings his colleagues into the game and even drops back to help in defence.

Both he and his coach insist that there is no chance of his figuring in the World Cup finals next year. As Adailton modestly remarked, Brazil have plenty of attackers already — not least Romário, on whom Adailton, studying videos of the centre forward, has modelled himself. He plays for the modest Guarani club and seems to have no immediate ambitions to leave them for Europe. In time, he surely will.

The word that Liverpool are close to signing Fabrizio Ravanelli from Middlesbrough justifies the fear for those who believe England's sparse native talents are being blocked by foreign players. Owen surely deserves his place in the Liverpool attack beside that other gifted Liverpudlian, Robbie Fowler.

Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund and AS Monaco are keenly interested in Ravanelli. Should he go to Dortmund, the European champions, he would find himself working under an Italian manager, the club having just appointed the former coach of Parma, Nevio Scala, who turned down several offers from England.

The hunt for young talent grows ever more intense. Perugia, relegated from *Serie A*, have lost two 19-year-olds to Britain. Accommodation has been reached with Rangers over Gennaro Gattuso, now that the Glasgow club has bought the 26-year-old Perugia striker, Marco Negri. Perugia are still pursuing Everton over the signing of the midfield player, Luigi Riccio.

Riccio, like Gattuso, suddenly walked out on Perugia. At present, he is doing his military service in Rome, but his agent has signed a contract with Everton that includes several free trips home a year and provision for intensive tuition in English. Perugia have appealed to Fifa, the world governing body, because, under Italian rules, the transfer is illegal. Everton may have the Bosman ruling on their side.

The Brazil senior team today meet Peru — fielding a mere under-23 side — in the semi-finals of the Copa America in Bolivia. For Brazil, exempted from the World Cup qualifiers, this has been simply target practice against countries that, preoccupied by World Cup qualification, have fielded scratch teams. One of them, Mexico, faced Bolivia in the other semi-final last night.

Overall, the competition has been a fiasco. High prices and weak teams have devastated attendances. The ever combative Daniel Passarella, the Argentina coach, was bitterly criticising the tournament from the first, not only on grounds of its redundancy but for the fact that Argentina might have had to play on the breathless heights of La Paz.

He and his team have gone home with their tails between their legs, knocked out by the young Peruvians, with three of their players sent off. Argentina entered a B team, but with enough experienced players to hope for success.

The emergence of Adailton, right, was marked by a flurry of goals in Malaysia

Kendall's asking price put at £1m

By Our Sports Staff

SHEFFIELD United have demanded £1 million in compensation for the services of Howard Kendall, their manager. Kendall will return to his former club, Everton, this week if an agreement can be reached between the clubs.

There is a delay, however, because Mike McDonald, the Sheffield United chairman, has been angered by Everton's approach and believes that he is entitled to heavy compensation. "I feel I have been kicked in the teeth," he said yesterday.

Kendall was holding talks over a contract with Everton last night as he prepared for his third spell at the club.

Walsall, of the Nationwide League second division, yesterday appointed Jan Sorensen, the former Denmark international, as their manager in place of Chris Nicholl, who resigned at the end of last season.

Brighton, having avoided relegation to the Vauxhall Conference by the skin of their teeth, may yet be expelled from the Football League after failing to pay a £500,000 bond to guarantee their continued membership of the league during a proposed groundshare, originally with Gillingham but now, probably, with Millwall.

The bond was payable by close of business at the end of last week but the league has heard nothing.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

THE TIMES ITC INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

AXA EQUITY & LAW

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Four Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	10966
2	Tobltt (A Luckhurst)	10904
3	Ian's Imperials (I Johnston)	10898
4	14 Lobs (P Johnson)	10874
5	Gazza's Guys (C Hawkins)	10754
6	Willow Cricketers (Mrs WJ Barber)	10736
7	Webbers Post (EG Evans)	10729
8	Star Wars 2 (Z Ali)	10710
9	Fantasy Formbk E (G Crutchley)	10709
10	Injury Free X I (U Hunt)	10704
11	Porius (W Clarke)	10703
12	Nine Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	10692
13	Dawns Dynamos (Miss D Shepherd)	10681
14	Ward's Wickstaker (AB Ward)	10675
15	Doodyteds (J Royston)	10665
16	Batman For Ever (R Rae)	10657
17	Mustala Cricket Cl (M Marashi)	10651
18	Three Lobs (P Johnson)	10645
19	Moor And Go H A P (N Johns)	10639
20	——	10636
21	Ace All Rounders (A Eade)	10634
22	Fantasy Formbk G (G Crutchly)	10627
23	Rug Catchers (A Rees)	10609
24	Wells Fargo (BE Howes)	10571
25	All Round Ability (W Burnett)	10540
26	Tessmungus (J Eaton)	10503
27	Fantasy Formbk D (G Crutchley)	10495
28	= Rain Stops Play (RB Williams)	10491
28	= Kim's Best (D Geraghty)	10491
30	Kalb's Corkers 4 (N Kalb)	10483
31	Kalb's Corkers 2 (N Kalb)	10468
32	= Slightly Byased (M Trovell)	10465
32	= Orchid M & O (N Jones)	10465
34	The 1997 X I (Miss JM Hutchin)	10462
35	The Funky Monkeys (A Moss)	10461
36	Points Galore (D Fenton)	10460
37	Fantasy Formbk H (G Crutchley)	10454
38	Kalb's Corkers 1 (N Kalb)	10449
39	Off Spinners In A (A Milroy)	10444
40	Shadow Leader 1 (D Findlay)	10437
41	Hedgers Grove (D Payne)	10426
42	Parkside X I (A Hossing)	10419
43	= Kamikaze Bowler (D Finlay)	10410
43	= ——	10410
45	Caroline A (A Luckhurst)	10408
46	Caroline C (A Luckhurst)	10407
47	Off To A Good Star (J Swirles)	10406
48	M J S 1 (M Squires)	10401
49	Fantasy Formbk I (G Crutchley)	10399
50	Bacardi Boys (M Woodley)	10391
51	Dave's Dependables (D Tattoo)	10389
52	Pinewood 3 (DM Carter)	10373
53	Wombles Allstars (KJ Davis)	10363
54	Meg's Eleven (S Simmons)	10360
55	= Sharps Eleven (M Sharp)	10346
55	= Toby Ross (A Luckhurst)	10346
57	Darren's Dazzlers (P J Parker)	10345
58	= Colemans Balls (D Blackburn)	10344
58	= D J S 2 (D Fenton)	10344
60	Dopey 11 (B Robinson)	10340
61	AARON First X I (P Edwards)	10336
62	Retirement Hero's (M Pettman)	10332
63	Meadlesex A (DJ Mead)	10326
64	Class Warriors 2 (S King)	10325
65	Friday Night X I (B McFerran)	10316
66	Daves Dosers (D Tattoo)	10311
67	Cats Eyes (N Marchant)	10307
68	Ventys Vintage No ——	10304
69	Runwicks (J Davenport)	10301
70	The Twins (B Collinson)	10291
71	Spike Thomas Eleve (TE Webb)	10290
72	Tommers Terrers (P Tompkins)	10286
73	No More Fridays Ou (I Ellis)	10279
74	Daves Demons (D Taggoo)	10277
75	Bearded Blunders (JM Brown)	10276
76	Letting Rip (D Finlay)	10270
77	Teddy For Bruce Be ——	10269
78	Spirit Of Oaks (AC Welch)	10266
79	Jones Boys 2 (Mr)	10263
80	= Canterbury Crusade (J Scott)	10258
80	= Jones Boys One (M Jones)	10258
80	= The Warne Factor (D Finlay)	10258
80	= Don't Forget To Ru (P Rowans)	10258
84	Orchid-Int con B (N Johns)	10249
85	Windy's Warriors (G Miller)	10240
86	The One And Only (S Hatcher)	10239
87	Ducks C C (P Davis)	10226
88	= S R S In The Press (SP Vann)	10218
88	= Lemar Old Boys (P Tranter)	10218
90	Wicket Kings (D Fenton)	10217
91	Comedy Long Hops (J Hartfield)	10211
92	Sams The Man 5 (G Sampson)	10206
93	The Flowerpot Men (D Blackburn)	10204
94	M J F 2 (M Squires)	10203
95	Fantastic (P Sainsbury)	10196
96	We Dont Mean This (J Moss)	10173
97	J M's Xi (J McCusker)	10169
98	Edward Ross (A Luckhurst)	10160
99	JSWC 285 (John Swirles)	10155
100	Eddie Woo (A Luckhurst)	10145

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the past week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by June 23. Overseas players are shown in **bold type**, Rising Stars in *italic*.

Batsmen (001-146)

Category A

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
C J Adams (001)	633 (53)	0 (0)	15 (1)	988 (78)
G F Archer (002)	351 (94)	4 (1)	13 (0)	645 (119)
M A Atherton (003)	752 (156)	0 (0)	7 (0)	942 (166)
C W J Athey (004)	621 (6)	0 (0)	5 (0)	751 (6)
R J Bailey (005)	820 (101)	1 (0)	9 (1)	1070 (126)
K J Barnett (006)	318 (24)	2 (0)	1 (0)	393 (24)
D J Bicknell (007)	117 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	137 (0)
G S Blewett (008)	503 (90)	0 (0)	5 (4)	633 (170)
D C Boon (009)	601 (4)	2 (2)	8 (1)	811 (44)
P D Bowler (010)	477 (49)	3 (0)	14 (0)	837 (49)
A D Brown (011)	605 (121)	0 (0)	4 (0)	660 (111)
M A Butcher (012)	533 (184)	0 (0)	16 (0)	808 (194)
P A Cottey (013)	333 (0)	1 (0)	8 (0)	503 (0)
J P Crawley (014)	582 (60)	0 (0)	4 (2)	672 (100)
K M Curran (015)	649 (112)	11 (0)	4 (0)	954 (112)
M T G Elliott (016)	697 (224)	0 (0)	6 (2)	872 (284)
N H Fairbrother (017)	454 (5)	0 (0)	7 (0)	589 (5)
J E R Gallian (018)	540 (0)	4 (0)	8 (0)	760 (0)
M W Gatting (019)	529 (14)	1 (0)	12 (1)	769 (34)
G A Gooch (020)	287 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)	397 (0)
M L Hayden (021)	1226 (204)	4 (0)	8 (1)	1501 (239)
D L Hemp (022)	588 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)	743 (0)
G A Hick (023)	649 (58)	2 (0)	14 (4)	999 (138)
A J Hollioake (024)	422 (27)	19 (0)	3 (0)	882 (27)
N Hussain (025)	736 (38)	0 (0)	14 (4)	986 (78)
S P James (026)	781 (152)	0 (0)	4 (0)	906 (162)
D M Jones (027)	399 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)	554 (0)
J H Kallis (028)	439 (22)	11 (0)	9 (0)	819 (2)
N V Knight (029)	505 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	645 (0)
J S Laney (030)	337 (57)	0 (0)	5 (3)	452 (122)
M N Lathwell (031)	268 (10)	1 (0)	7 (1)	333 (10)
G D Lloyd (032)	519 (7)	0 (0)	8 (0)	649 (7)
M B Loye (033)	338 (99)	0 (0)	2 (0)	368 (84)
M P Maynard (034)	418 (0)	0 (0)	9 (0)	598 (0)
A McGrath (035)	147 (2)	0 (0)	3 (0)	157 (2)
R R Montgomerie (036)	190 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	230 (0)
T M Moody (037)	216 (19)	1 (0)	3 (0)	306 (19)
H Morris (038)	462 (24)	0 (0)	2 (0)	522 (24)
M D Moxon (039)	269 (60)	0 (0)	1 (0)	284 (65)
T L Penney (040)	484 (0)	0 (0)	10 (0)	704 (0)
M R Ramprakash (041)	759 (101)	2 (1)	6 (1)	964 (146)
R T Robinson (042)	218 (81)	0 (0)	3 (1)	288 (106)
P V Simmons (043)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J Slater (044)	65 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	85 (0)
B F Smith (045)	264 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	294 (0)
R A Smith (046)	685 (74)	0 (0)	2 (0)	735 (79)
A J Stewart (047)	787 (28)	0 (0)	21/1 (2)	1232 (68)
M A Taylor (048)	448 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)	498 (42)
G P Thorpe (049)	1052 (102)	0 (0)	10 (0)	1312 (102)
M P Vaughan (050)	542 (0)	6 (0)	1 (0)	692 (0)
T R Ward (051)	526 (25)	0 (0)	9 (0)	711 (5)
M E Waugh (052)	358 (66)	1 (0)	1 (0)	408 (66)
S R Waugh (053)	400 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	455 (-40)
A P Wells (054)	525 (47)	0 (0)	11 (3)	725 (107)
V J Wells (055)	800 (81)	8 (0)	5 (1)	1035 (106)
W P C Weston (056)	365 (17)	0 (0)	4 (0)	440 (17)

Category B

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
J J Whitaker (057)	579 (159)	0 (0)	6 (0)	689 (169)
D A Blenkiron (058)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D Byas (059)	801 (161)	0 (0)	17 (2)	1166 (211)
M E Cassar (060)	77 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	117 (0)
G R Cowdrey (061)	445 (46)	2 (0)	1 (0)	515 (46)
R J Cunliffe (062)	441 (16)	0 (0)	4 (1)	476 (16)
T S Curtis (063)	299 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	359 (-20)
A Dale (064)	382 (78)	5 (0)	1 (0)	482 (83)
J A Daley (065)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	20 (0)
R I Dawson (066)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M P Dowman (067)	358 (35)	5 (1)	3 (1)	508 (75)
A W Evans (068)	33 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	33 (0)
A Flintoff (069)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A Fordham (070)	44 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	84 (0)
D P Fulton (071)	423 (44)	0 (0)	15 (1)	733 (64)
A P Grayson (072)	513 (0)	15 (0)	9 (0)	993 (0)
K Greenfield (073)	315 (0)	1 (0)	4 (0)	380 (0)
A Habib (074)	385 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	510 (0)
T H C Hancock (075)	260 (9)	2 (0)	9 (1)	425 (9)
R J Harden (076)	460 (33)	0 (0)	6 (0)	565 (33)
J C Harrison (077)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A N Hayhurst (078)	12 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	52 (0)
G R Haynes (079)	521 (47)	21 (5)	3 (0)	986 (147)
D R Hewson (080)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A J Hibbert (081)	17 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	77 (0)
T P Hodgson (082)	113 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	143 (0)
P C L Holloway (083)	370 (26)	0 (0)	4 (0)	465 (26)
W J House (084)	112 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	177 (0)
S Hutton (085)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Johnson (086)	611 (14)	0 (0)	9 (2)	806 (54)
M Keech (087)	127 (18)	2 (0)	2 (1)	207 (38)
W S Kendall (088)	384 (0)	0 (0)	10 (5)	549 (80)
G J Kennis (089)	24 (24)	0 (0)	2 (0)	24 (24)
R A Kettleborough (090)	30 (3)	0 (0)	1 (1)	50 (23)
G A Khan (091)	108 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	113 (0)
W G Khan (092)	102 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	142 (0)
D A Leatherdale (093)	272 (0)	18 (2)	4 (3)	737 (100)
N J Lenham (094)	271 (7)	0 (0)	2 (0)	321 (7)
J J B Lewis (095)	570 (222)	0 (0)	5 (1)	695 (252)
N J Llong (096)	211 (20)	5 (0)	10 (3)	471 (80)
M A Lynch (097)	558 (65)	0 (0)	5 (0)	683 (70)
G I Macmillan (098)	132 (19)	0 (0)	2 (0)	152 (19)
D L Maddy (099)	687 (68)	1 (0)	10 (2)	902 (113)
M R May (100)	94 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	99 (0)
P C McKeown (101)	98 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	158 (0)
A A Metcalfe (102)	229 (148)	0 (0)	2 (1)	279 (178)
S P Moffat (103)	220 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	285 (0)
A J Moles (104)	420 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	560 (0)
J E Morris (105)	756 (75)	0 (0)	4 (2)	851 (115)
K Newell (106)	348 (14)	9 (0)	3 (1)	598 (34)
D P Ostler (107)	430 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0)	605 (0)
J E Owen (108)	37 (14)	0 (0)	2 (0)	77 (14)
K A Parsons (109)	232 (81)	8 (2)	8 (1)	562 (146)
S D Peters (110)	150 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)	200 (20)
P R Pollard (111)	222 (142)	0 (0)	7 (3)	372 (212)
J C Pooley (112)	370 (25)	0 (0)	6 (0)	485 (5)
M J Powell (113)	20 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	60 (0)
P J Prichard (114)	351 (14)	0 (0)	6 (0)	471 (14)
T A Radford (115)	131 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	181 (0)
R K Rao (116)	374 (16)	2 (0)	4 (0)	474 (16)
J D Ratcliffe (117)	483 (157)	3 (0)	1 (0)	583 (167)
D J Roberts (118)	81 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	101 (0)
D D J Robinson (119)	250 (12)	0 (0)	5 (1)	340 (32)
A S Rollins (120)	480 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	485 (-20)
M A Roseberry (121)	29 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	49 (0)
D J G Sales (122)	124 (41)	0 (0)	1 (0)	124 (41)
O A Shah (123)	65 (65)	0 (0)	0 (0)	70 (70)
N Shahid (124)	224 (19)	0 (0)	5 (0)	304 (19)
A Singh (125)	156 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	186 (0)
E T Smith (126)	271 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	306 (0)
N J Speak (127)	427 (5)	0 (0)	5 (1)	467 (-15)
K R Spiring (128)	383 (43)	0 (0)	4 (1)	433 (63)
J P Stephenson (129)	322 (49)	19 (0)	7 (0)	842 (49)
I J Sutcliffe (130)	176 (133)	0 (0)	3 (1)	246 (163)
A J Swann (131)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
N R Taylor (132)	419 (49)	0 (0)	3 (0)	474 (49)
S P Titchard (133)	76 (5)	3 (0)	1 (0)	156 (5)
N J Trainor (134)	310 (30)	0 (0)	1 (0)	260 (20)
M E Trescothick (135)	24 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	44 (0)
T A Tweats (136)	106 (9)	0 (0)	1 (1)	126 (29)
M J Walker (137)	498 (28)	0 (0)	6 (0)	638 (28)
M A Wagh (138)	380 (47)	5 (0)	6 (2)	585 (87)
C D Walsh (139)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T C Walton (140)	321 (53)	0 (0)	3 (0)	391 (53)
P E Wellings (141)	13 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	33 (0)
R M S Weston (142)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P R Whitaker (143)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G W White (144)	287 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)	357 (0)
M G N Windows (145)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A J Wright (146)	345 (55)	0 (0)	7 (2)	450 (75)

All-rounders (147-185)

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
M W Alleyne (147)	466 (107)	26 (2)	9 (5)	1206 (252)
I D Austin (148)	250 (17)	20 (1)	3 (0)	655 (37)
M G Bevan (149)	495 (8)	5 (0)	7 (0)	765 (8)
D R Brown (150)	336 (0)	35 (0)	4 (0)	1101 (0)
G P Butcher (151)	210 (0)	8 (0)	1 (0)	385 (0)
D J Capel (152)	184 (0)	7 (0)	1 (0)	359 (0)
P D Collingwood (153)	256 (20)	4 (1)	9 (1)	521 (60)
D G Cork (154)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R D B Croft (155)	457 (4)	28 (2)	5 (0)	1142 (44)
P A J DeFreitas (156)	158 (9)	19 (3)	4 (1)	628 (89)
V C Drakes (157)	110 (12)	23 (4)	4 (1)	810 (112)
K P Dutch (158)	136 (85)	8 (0)	1 (1)	321 (110)
M A Ealham (159)	464 (14)	25 (0)	9 (0)	1179 (14)
S C Ecclestone (160)	167 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	192 (0)
K P Evans (161)	173 (5)	28 (8)	4 (0)	813 (135)
M V Fleming (162)	305 (62)	38 (12)	5 (1)	1145 (332)
J P Hewitt (163)	146 (70)	44 (4)	4 (1)	1046 (170)
K J Innes (164)	8 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	28 (20)
R C Irani (165)	443 (0)	16 (0)	3 (1)	843 (20)
K D James (166)	321 (56)	24 (1)	4 (2)	886 (121)
B P Julian (167)	79 (0)	8 (0)	3 (0)	304 (0)
S R Lampitt (168)	150 (0)	22 (4)	5 (2)	695 (120)
D R Law (169)	404 (0)	15 (2)	5 (1)	829 (60)
S G Law (170)	721 (0)	2 (0)	11 (0)	1021 (0)
C C Lewis (171)	172 (1)	14 (1)	5 (1)	552 (41)
A C Morris (172)	50 (4)	3 (1)	0 (0)	110 (24)
A L Penberthy (173)	352 (1)	8 (2)	1 (0)	542 (41)
G M Roberts (174)	36 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	56 (0)
N M K Smith (175)	529 (0)	16 (0)	3 (0)	944 (0)
J N Snape (176)	192 (16)	15 (0)	8 (0)	647 (16)
V S Solanki (177)	267 (7)	0 (0)	2 (1)	277 (27)
P A Strang (178)	346 (58)	42 (4)	10 (3)	1421 (198)
C M Tolley (179)	179 (0)	10 (0)	3 (0)	424 (0)
Wasim Akram (180)	48 (0)	8 (0)	3 (0)	268 (0)
M Watkinson (181)	143 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)	243 (0)
P N Weekes (182)	354 (45)	10 (1)	15 (2)	859 (105)
C M Wells (183)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
C White (184)	234 (19)	28 (4)	9 (0)	894 (99)
S Young (185)	446 (90)	22 (2)	3 (0)	826 (115)

Wicketkeepers (186-216)

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
A N Aymes (186)	155 (5)	0 (0)	18/7 (1)	795 (25)
J N Batty (187)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R J Blakey (188)	493 (45)	0 (0)	30/2 (4)	1153 (125)
K R Brown (189)	453 (30)	0 (0)	29/3 (6/1)	1173 (190)
M Burns (190)	270 (0)	4 (1)	10/1 (0)	520 (20)
C A Chapman (191)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
I Dawood (192)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T Frost (193)	30 (0)	0 (0)	17/1 (0)	370 (0)
S P Griffiths (194)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
I A Healy (195)	241 (26)	0 (0)	23/1 (6)	701 (146)
W K Hegg (196)	168 (0)	0 (0)	16/4 (1)	633 (0)
B J Hyam (197)	29 (0)	0 (0)	9 (4)	189 (80)
D A Kenway (198)	22 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	82 (0)
K M Krikken (199)	157 (17)	0 (0)	24/1 (1)	677 (37)
D G C Ligertwood (200)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S A Marsh (201)	358 (7)	0 (0)	25/2 (2)	928 (27)
C P Metson (202)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
P Moores (203)	241 (32)	0 (0)	16/1 (1)	606 (52)
P A Nixon (204)	394 (41)	0 (0)	21/4 (3)	969 (101)
W M Noon (205)	269 (6)	0 (0)	20/2 (2)	719 (46)
K J Piper (206)	13 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)	113 (0)
S J Rhodes (207)	184 (0)	0 (0)	31 (4)	769 (80)
D Ripley (208)	313 (10)	0 (0)	15/1 (2)	628 (50)
R J Rollins (209)	252 (0)	0 (0)	10/6 (0)	687 (0)
R C Russell (210)	449 (30)	0 (0)	28/5 (6)	1229 (150)
A D Shaw (211)	145 (0)	0 (0)	19/1 (2)	505 (40)
M P Speight (212)	486 (88)	0 (0)	32 (8)	1141 (253)
R J Turner (213)	490 (123)	0 (0)	22/1 (2)	965 (168)
R J Warren (214)	114 (82)	0 (0)	4 (1)	194 (102)
P Whitticase (215)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R C J Williams (216)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Bowlers (217-347)

Category A

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
J A Afford (217)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S J W Andrew (218)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	20 (0)
M C J Ball (219)	242 (36)	10 (1)	8 (0)	602 (56)
R T Bates (220)	56 (4)	14 (2)	6 (0)	416 (44)
J E Benjamin (221)	77 (5)	12 (1)	1 (0)	317 (25)
M M Betts (222)	22 (6)	11 (9)	0 (0)	232 (176)
M P Bicknell (223)	223 (61)	26 (2)	4 (0)	813 (106)
J N B Bovill (224)	48 (0)	20 (4)	4 (1)	508 (100)
M T Brimson (225)	25 (0)	10 (0)	3 (0)	225 (0)
S J E Brown (226)	81 (11)	25 (5)	1 (0)	551 (91)
A R Caddick (227)	143 (2)	54 (8)	3 (0)	1253 (162)
G Chapple (228)	138 (0)	26 (0)	2 (0)	623 (-20)
C A Connor (229)	24 (0)	8 (1)	0 (0)	144 (20)
A P Cowan (230)	203 (0)	34 (0)	5 (0)	1003 (0)
D M Cox (231)	24 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	84 (0)
R P Davis (232)	34 (0)	7 (0)	3 (0)	214 (0)
A A Donald (233)	16 (0)	18 (0)	4 (0)	456 (0)
A R C Fraser (234)	100 (6)	33 (4)	2 (0)	770 (66)
A F Giles (235)	242 (0)	25 (0)	3 (0)	772 (0)
J N Gillespie (236)	27 (0)	7 (0)	2 (0)	167 (0)
D Gough (237)	119 (20)	46 (4)	3 (0)	1069 (100)
A J Harris (238)	86 (7)	21 (2)	4 (1)	566 (67)
P J Hartley (239)	267 (8)	25 (2)	5 (0)	837 (28)
D W Headley (240)	8 (1)	12 (5)	0 (0)	208 (81)
R K Illingworth (241)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M C Ilott (242)	104 (0)	22 (3)	0 (0)	504 (60)
P W Jarvis (243)	171 (0)	19 (0)	4 (0)	646 (0)
R L Johnson (244)	157 (44)	34 (7)	2 (0)	857 (184)
G Keedy (245)	5 (0)	7 (0)	0 (0)	125 (-20)
R J Kirtley (246)	3 (3)	11 (4)	2 (0)	223 (83)
J D Lewry (247)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M J McCague (248)	120 (12)	34 (3)	5 (0)	860 (32)
G D McGrath (249)	3 (0)	31 (18)	0 (0)	623 (380)
D E Malcolm (250)	16 (0)	33 (0)	4 (2)	746 (40)
P J Martin (251)	97 (1)	25 (0)	1 (0)	627 (1)
R J Maru (252)	75 (0)	4 (0)	3 (0)	195 (0)
D J Millns (253)	153 (7)	28 (9)	4 (0)	813 (197)
Mohammad Akram (254)	27 (0)	7 (0)	0 (0)	177 (0)
A D Mullally (255)	28 (0)	30 (1)	2 (1)	658 (40)
T A Munton (256)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Mushtaq Ahmed (257)	145 (4)	20 (1)	3 (0)	615 (24)
P J Newport (258)	23 (0)	18 (0)	0 (0)	373 (0)
G J Parsons (259)	44 (0)	16 (0)	3 (0)	404 (0)
M M Patel (260)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R M Pearson (261)	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	61 (0)
A R K Pierson (262)	85 (0)	17 (0)	3 (0)	465 (0)
P R Reiffel (263)	8 (2)	13 (4)	0 (0)	268 (82)
G D Rose (264)	456 (8)	41 (3)	3 (2)	1306 (108)
I D K Salisbury (265)	54 (9)	15 (0)	2 (0)	374 (9)
A Sheriyar (266)	26 (0)	28 (5)	0 (0)	596 (100)
K J Shine (267)	58 (6)	30 (3)	1 (1)	688 (86)
C E W Silverwood (268)	121 (19)	23 (4)	1 (0)	611 (99)
A M Smith (269)	117 (43)	46 (6)	3 (0)	1127 (173)
R D Stemp (270)	71 (1)	39 (0)	2 (1)	861 (21)
P M Such (271)	30 (0)	33 (0)	3 (0)	780 (0)
J P Taylor (272)	64 (1)	34 (6)	2 (0)	824 (131)
P C R Tufnell (273)	46 (0)	16 (0)	1 (0)	366 (0)
S D Udal (274)	380 (45)	22 (5)	6 (0)	900 (145)
S K Warne (275)	205 (0)	26 (4)	4 (2)	785 (80)
Waqar Younis (276)	106 (0)	28 (7)	2 (1)	696 (170)
S L Watkin (277)	73 (0)	21 (3)	4 (0)	553 (60)
N F Williams (278)	17 (0)	10 (5)	1 (0)	247 (110)
J Wood (279)	4 (4)	4 (4)	1 (1)	104 (104)

Category B

Player (no)	Runs	Wkts	Ct/St	Total
U Afzaal (280)	349 (6)	4 (0)	4 (0)	539 (6)
P Aldred (281)	140 (0)	13 (1)	4 (0)	465 (0)
D A Altree (282)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	40 (0)
G J Batty (283)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M A V Bell (284)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J Boiling (285)	111 (50)	11 (2)	8 (0)	451 (90)
M N Bowen (286)	99 (10)	39 (4)	3 (0)	959 (90)
J E Brinkley (287)	7 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)
J F Brown (288)	0 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	80 (0)
R J Chapman (289)	3 (0)	13 (2)	1 (0)	263 (40)
V P Clarke (290)	432 (65)	13 (1)	6 (1)	827 (110)
D A Cosker (291)	5 (0)	14 (0)	3 (0)	345 (0)
D M Cousins (292)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P Davies (293)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
K J Dean (294)	32 (0)	17 (2)	0 (0)	332 (20)
R R Dibden (295)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M Dimond (296)	4 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)
S W K Ellis (297)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E Emburey (298)	83 (0)	11 (0)	5 (0)	383 (0)
R A Fay (299)	3 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	63 (0)
D Follett (300)	8 (0)	8 (0)	2 (0)	188 (0)
M J Foster (301)	377 (40)	15 (2)	3 (0)	737 (80)
P J Franks (302)	101 (0)	11 (3)	3 (0)	386 (60)
R J Green (303)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	20 (0)
G M Hamilton (304)	70 (0)	10 (0)	0 (0)	250 (0)
S Herzberg (305)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J E Hindson (306)	6 (6)	8 (8)	0 (0)	166 (166)
B C Hollioake (307)	376 (30)	8 (0)	1 (0)	571 (30)
J G Hughes (308)	5 (5)	4 (1)	0 (0)	85 (25)
P M Hutchison (309)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P Igglesden (310)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J I D Kerr (311)	47 (26)	13 (2)	1 (0)	307 (66)
N Killeen (312)	25 (0)	10 (0)	1 (0)	225 (0)
J Lewis (313)	100 (14)	24 (10)	1 (0)	610 (224)
S Lugsden (314)	4 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	24 (0)
R S C Martin-Jenkins (315)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A D Mascarenhas (316)	44 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	84 (0)
T J Mason (317)	38 (4)	4 (0)	1 (0)	138 (4)
S M Milburn (318)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
R W Nowell (319)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
J Ormond (320)	7 (6)	11 (4)	0 (0)	237 (86)
O T Parkin (321)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M W Patterson (322)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
B J Phillips (323)	252 (5)	19 (2)	3 (0)	717 (45)
N C Phillips (324)	16 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	56 (0)
R A Pick (325)	23 (0)	6 (2)	1 (1)	163 (60)
N W Preston (326)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
M Rawnsley (327)	7 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (0)
S J Renshaw (328)	91 (2)	32 (6)	1 (0)	721 (122)
M A Robinson (329)	30 (0)	18 (1)	4 (0)	390 (20)
M J Saggers (330)	19 (0)	12 (0)	3 (0)	329 (0)
J P Searle (331)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
D J Shadford (332)	23 (0)	11 (0)	0 (0)	243 (0)
K P Sheeraz (333)	9 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)	69 (40)
G C Small (334)	29 (0)	15 (0)	1 (0)	339 (0)
E J Stanford (335)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
S D Thomas (336)	93 (0)	22 (0)	5 (0)	623 (0)
J B Thompson (337)	92 (4)	11 (0)	0 (0)	327 (4)
M J Thursfield (338)	34 (0)	5 (0)	2 (0)	154 (0)
H R J Trump (339)	1 (0)	4 (0)	2 (0)	101 (0)
A J Tudor (340)	67 (31)	12 (0)	0 (0)	297 (31)
M J Vandrau (341)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
A P van Troost (342)	5 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)	105 (0)
A Walker (343)	53 (2)	27 (5)	2 (2)	613 (142)
G Welch (344)	296 (0)	32 (0)	4 (0)	1011 (0)
A G Wharf (345)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
T N Wren (346)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
G Yates (347)	62 (0)	13 (0)	4 (0)	362 (-20)

☐ One point is awarded for each run, 20 points for each wicket and catch and 40 points for each stumping.

Five bonus points are awarded for a half-century, ten bonus points are awarded for a century and for five wickets in an innings, and 20 bonus points are awarded for ten wickets in a match.

Twenty points are deducted for a duck.

All points scored in Test matches are *doubled*.

☐ *Source: ECB/PA Cricket Record*

Luton team indebted to Speight

LUTON has produced the winner this week of the Interactive Team Cricket game. R. Rae, with his team, Harry You're A Beast, scored 1,631 points last week.

The biggest contribution to Mr Rae's success came from Martin Speight, of Durham, whose batting abilities have come to the fore recently after some time spent readjusting to his new county. Speight scored 253 points over the week.

The prize this week is a *day's hospitality at the Old Trafford Test* and a first edition of *PCA Yearbook '97*, signed by members of the Professional Cricketers' Association.

PCA

ECB

HARRY YOU'RE A BEAST: Batsmen: C W J Athey (Sussex), M L Hayden (Hampshire), P R Pollard (Nottinghamshire), D Byas (Yorkshire), J P Stephenson (Hampshire) All-rounder: P N Weekes (Middlesex). Wicketkeeper: M P Speight (Durham) Bowlers: M M Betts (Durham), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), J Boiling (Durham), J J Lewis (Gloucestershire)

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

EACH team, depending on when it is registered, will be allocated a number of transfer allowances. If you register in May, your team will be allocated ten transfers. In June, you will be allocated eight transfers. In July, six, in August, four, and in September, two

You may use as many or as few as you wish, but they must replace like for like — ie one bowler for another bowler. All transfers must be made before a first-class match. Transfer periods will be set weekly and any transfers made in one transfer period will become effective for the matches that begin within the next transfer period.

The transfer line opened on Wednesday May 21 and will remain open for the season. Transfers must be made by midnight on a Monday in order to be effective for any first-class matches beginning after that date. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling.

0891 884 626 (0990 100 346 outside UK)

YOU may check your team score and position in ITC by calling

0891 884 624 (0990 100 349 outside UK)

QUERIES on all other ITC matters, including details of how to enter, should be made to

01582 702720

IN BRIEF

France look to Penaud for control

FRANCE have announced three changes to their team for the second and final rugby union international against Australia at Ballymore, Brisbane on Saturday. Alain Penaud, the stand-off half, so essential to the smooth functioning of the France back division, is fit again and replaces David Aucagne, while Christophe Lamaison, the Brive centre, comes in for Richard Dourthe.

Sebastien Viars is selected on the left wing in place of David Venditti, who pulled a hamstring in the 29-15 defeat in the first international at Sydney last Saturday.

FRANCE: **J-L Sadourny** (Colomiers), **P Bernat-Salles** (Pau) **C Lamaison** (Brive) **T Castaignède** (Toulouse) **S Viars** (Brive), **A Penaud** (Brive), **P Carbonneau** (Brive), **C Califano** (Toulouse) **M Dalmaso** (Agen), **F Tournaire** (Narbonne), **A Benazzi** (Agen, captain) **O Brouzet** (Begles-Bordeaux), **O Merle** (Montferrand), **O Magne** (Dax), **F Pelous** (Dax)

Cycling: Chris Boardman's domination of the Tour of Catalonia came to an end yesterday in the seventh and penultimate stage from Gerona to Andorra. Boardman lost his earlier overall lead of 1min 36sec over Fernando Escartin, of Spain, at the end of the stage, which was won by Bo Hamburger of Denmark. Escartin is the new race leader, 2sec ahead of Angel Casero, also of Spain.

Cricket: The draw between West Indies and Sri Lanka in St Vincent on Tuesday has elevated England one place in the *Wisden Cricket Monthly* world championship, the sport's unofficial international ranking system. England are now sixth, with 11 points, ahead of Sri Lanka, who lost a point for losing the series against West Indies, Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Hockey: England restricted Australia to a 3-1 victory in the second under-21 international match at Milton Keynes yesterday after losing 6-0 at the same venue on Monday. Splendid goalkeeping by Taylor prevented Australia from scoring before half-time and England took the lead five minutes into the second half, when David Mathews converted a short corner. Australia responded in kind in the 58th minute and went on to win with two goals from open play.

Golf: Keith Nolan, 24, of Ireland, was first out yesterday in the first qualifying round of the European amateur team championship at Portmarnock, and his name was at the top of the leaderboard after a score of 70, two under par. Ireland also led the 22-strong field.

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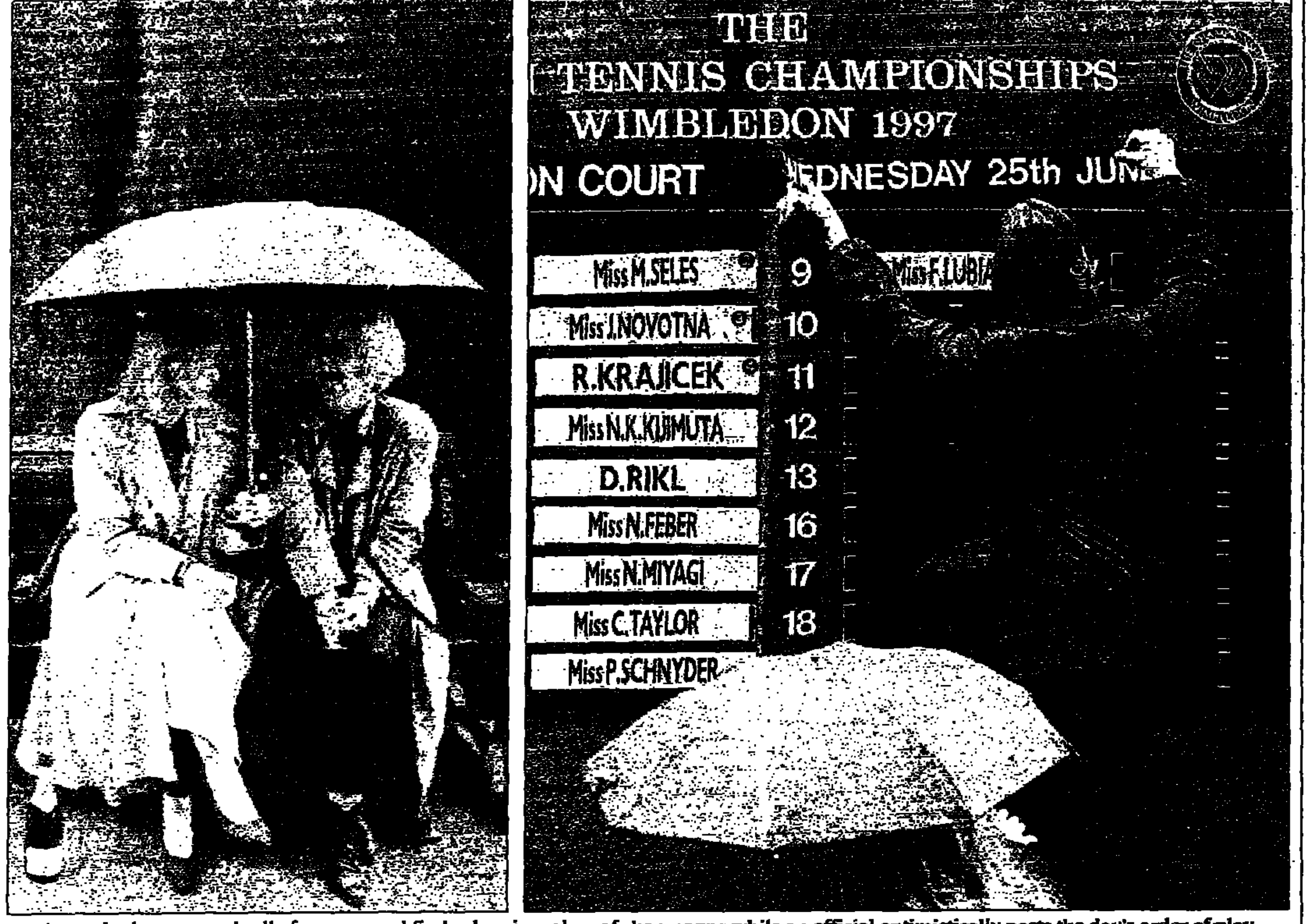
Wimbledon washout proves an uncomfortable experience for spectators

Shopping around for entertainment

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND AND CHRIS HARRIS



A couple share an umbrella for cover and find solace in a glass of champagne while an official optimistically posts the day's order of play

Someone has really missed a trick, in my opinion, failing to sponsor the Wimbledon tarpaulins. An aerial shot of the All England Club on one of its famous washed-out days is all swollen-bellied plastic sheets, like an array of giant growbags, without the tomatoes. What a waste of a prime site. Those tarpaulins could spell out messages of all sorts. "CLIFF RICHARD STAY HOME." That would be a good one.

I had always wondered why, during rainfall at Wimbledon, dauntless punters remained in their Centre Court seats, sheltering under umbrellas, munching sad apples and risking the unpleasantness of damp community singing. "You should go indoors," I used to urge them from my comfy sofa at home. "Go indoors!" Getting up briefly to turn up the gas fire and settling down to a rerun of an old Borg-McEnroe match on the BBC, doubtless that's what many telly viewers advised yesterday as well.

But alas, "indoors" is an insanely fanciful notion at Wimbledon. It is an outdoor event. Thus, you can have "under cover" and also "sitting down", but unfortunately it is a matter of either/or: they rarely occur in useful combinations. In the Aorangi Food Court, people impersonated refugees, sitting on the cold floor on newspapers: in the No 1 Court "Food Village", they ate their Thai stir-fry standing up. People brought up (as I was) on the principle "Never stand up when you can lie down" can find Wimbledon pretty hard going.

So of course shopping turns out to be the thing. Personally, I shopped widely and imaginatively during the nothing-bloody-doing hours of Wimbledon yesterday until 6 o'clock, when play finally commenced. I shopped in the little bijou Post Office and in the Museum Shop. The small chemist's was a disappointment (mostly sun-creams), but the key-fobs in the large swanky Waterford Crystal place under No 1 Court certainly rewarded another thoughtful browse and I expect to make my final decision on this important matter really quite soon.

No catalogue of the day's excitement would be complete without also mentioning that I had two pieces of pizza, a handful of chocolate creams from a "Bon-Bons" stall and a half of lager. And if memory serves, this was all before half past eleven.

If it sounds like spending quality time airside at Gatwick, that's also what it feels like, except that nobody asks you for your boarding pass all the time and there are no toddlers crayonning the bins. Hourly, a loudspeaker announcement reduces the low polite murmur of the dank crowds to a deep hush. Even the cash tills fall silent for the duration. The announcement routinely offers the palest ray of hope, that in "an hour or so" the weather situation will be reviewed. Ho hum, says the crowd, and then recollects itself. "Do you take Switch?" Beep, beep, beep, ker-ching.

Personally, I spent much of the day catching up with important paperwork — ie, filling in the winners of the first-round matches in *The Times's* handy championship knockout table and getting hysterically over-excited about what the next bout of play might bring. For example, I can now see that Haas (Ger) has beaten Ruud (Nor), to meet Petchey (GB). I'll confess I hadn't fully appreciated this before. Similarly, Knippschild will play Rafter. It's good to see it all systematically laid out. When you have filled in the table for yourself, with a special Wimbledon ball-point pen, the sense of achievement is disproportionately high.

Rain cleared. Rain fell again. Pitiful community singing burst out around No 2 Court after lunch, but luckily Sir Cliff was broadcasting on Radio Wimbledon at the time and it petered out once *Yellow Submarine* and *Doe, a deer* had been exhausted. The poverty of the British repertoire is all too apparent in these situations, unfortunately. Of course, the imperatives of journalistic curiosity ought to have driven me towards these piping voices, to gather names and addresses, but, by a strangely perverse process, their damn Blitz spirit drove me instead in quite the opposite direction, towards my second half of lager of the day.

The truth is, there's a time limit to good humour on occasions like this. Once the punters have discovered that all the Wimbledon shops stock the same gear, things can turn a bit nasty. The novelty of the pricey catering can wear off quite quickly, too. If I have perused (and rejected) one egg mayonnaise sandwich in this place (price £1.95), I have perused and rejected identical thousands. There's no argument that the food here is of a superior nature, what with Pimm's and all that, but I'm yet to understand why a hot dog is called a "Dutchee", or why my first modest repast of sandwich and coffee set me back £7.25.

Out at the Cafe Croquet — a small marquee at the southern end of the grounds, where sitting undercover turned out to be a possibility, after all — I found two demoralised ladies from Kilmarnock, one of whom was so nice that she offered me accommodation during the British Open golf at Troon. This was their third day at the tournament and so far they had seen a match and a half, on Monday. On Tuesday, they had queued for three hours before being sent away. Their tickets for No 1 Court promised Seles v McQuillan, Ivanisevic v Norman and Henman v Golmard, so no wonder they felt sick that the only excitement in view was another egg mayonnaise sandwich and half of lager to a chorus of the greatest hits from *The Sound of Music*.

Rain is predicted for today as well, of course. They've got Centre Court tickets today.

Novotna haunted by spectre of lost opportunity

By Michael Calvin

THE setting was new. The spectres were old. Jana Novotna returned to Wimbledon, on a dank, damp evening, and failed once more to dispel the memories of a sunny summer Saturday, when her frailties became clear to the watching world.

She left No 1 Court with almost indecent haste yesterday after taking 34 minutes to work herself into a position of strength, from which she successfully served for the first set of her first-round match against Wiltrud Probst. It was a tacit admission of the pressures that will build, inexorably, when the monsoon season clears.

As much as she may deny the gravity of her plight, the Czech seems, like Paul Gascoigne, to be destined to be remembered for self-pitying tears, shed in shock. Four years have passed since she wept on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent, after her loss of nerve donated the women's singles title to Steffi Graf, but it is an enduring freeze-frame image of desolation.

Second chances are rare in sport. Doug Sanders never had another three-foot putt for the Open Championship; Gordon Smith subsided into obscurity soon after missing the chance that would have won Brighton the FA Cup.

Novotna is fortunate. The absence of Graf, the suspect temperament of Monica Seles and the relative inexperience of Martina Hingis give her what is probably her last, and most certainly her best, opportunity of winning Wimbledon.

The air was heavy with unfulfilled ambition and scarcely supressed anxiety even before Novotna emerged tentatively for a match that seemed to represent an ideal introduction. Probst, at 28 the same age as Novotna, is ranked No 90 in the world and is struggling to sustain a mediocre career. Novotna, ranked No 3, had won the five previous matches between them.

Yet she was ill at ease after a day that applied subtle strain to her psyche. The sheer futility of life as a professional athlete, when the weather intervenes, is an insidious test of temperament. It destroys the bio-rhythms, interrupts the rituals of practice and preparation. Most of all, it gives a player too much time to think about the impending challenge.

Novotna, like most of the elite, was nowhere to be seen as the afternoon dragged on. She took refuge in the locker-room and attempted to remain self-contained, away from the public gaze. Probst also declined to risk the diversions of a visit to the players lounge, which had all the allure of Gatwick when air traffic controllers exercise their right to strike.

Some players, folded into wooden-framed chairs arranged around a conspicuously-closed bar, watched an amorphous blob called Morph, a pliable pillar of children's BBC, with the type of rapt attention seldom seen outside a toddler group. Others played cards or pocket chess. The financially inclined completed their accounts, or read paperback pot-boilers charting the career of Nick Leeson, the jailed futures trader.

Novotna, more concerned by the stigma of her past, would have concurred with the thoughts of Alan Jones, who ordered his charge, Samantha Smith, the British No 1, out of the room because of the psychological pressure inflicted by the waiting process. Wait and wonder too long in such circumstances and the walls begin to close in.

The nervous tension was etched on Novotna's face as she walked out on court, stilling a brief burst of slow handclapping from an obsessively patient crowd. Her stern features are generally deceptive, yet, on this occasion, she was clearly absorbed by her task.

Probst played on her mind, testing her dexterity and determination in a series of powerfully struck baseline rallies. Novotna was hesitant and did not disguise her alarm when she slipped twice during the fifth game, when she rallied to make her decisive second break of the opening set. Appropriately enough, given the staccato nature of the day, she endured another half-hour delay before winning 6-4 when the rain had eased once again.

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CHANGING TIMES

Seles gets straight to the point

Simon Barnes on how fate seems to be smiling more kindly on a true survivor

A brief hole in the weather and Monica Seles burst through it like a linebacker homing in on a dilatory quarterback, all shoulders, teeth and psychopathic intentions. The first ball of the day hit in anger — the expression always seems appropriate with Seles — came at 6.04pm: 18 minutes later, she had polished of the first set to love.

Her opponent, Rachel McQuillan, had a tharn look on her face — tharn being the word in *Watership Down* for a rabbit caught in a car's headlights. McQuillan did, however, give her opponent the considerable inconvenience of saving a match point, after which the skies wept once again at this missed opportunity and play was suspended with the score at 6-0, 5-2 and deuce. The rain relented. Seles did not. She came back on court and completed the match in another couple of minutes, finishing the set 6-2.

Like the life of man in his natural state, the proceedings on Centre Court yesterday were nasty, brutish and short. Years ago, Seles reinvented the game of tennis on a principle of applied brutalism. Wonderfully ugly, wonderfully effective and, I must say, it was rather wonderful to be exposed to such a thing again for Seles was the victim of a man who committed the ultimate lunacy of taking sport seriously. Stabbed in the back by the madman, Günther Parche, she was penetrated lightly in the flesh and deeply in the soul.

She stepped on court yesterday, a figure somewhat diminished from her glory days in everything save size. She is now clearly built for comfort rather than speed — she has more or less forgone the concept of waist.

There was never, even in her palmiest days, the least suggestion of queenliness in her bearing. She was rather a rampaging, pillaging conqueror, an Attila, a Ghenghis Khan, a Tamburlaine — monarch of all she destroyed.

She brought a genuinely alarming intensity to her game of all-out power. Still cameras caught again and again that characteristic expression of the killer bunny from Mars, all blazing eyes and bared herbivorous teeth.

There was something crazed about her, something intimidating about her even to spectators. Lord knows what it must have felt like to face the Martian in her pomp. It was a fearsome sound, the ringing axeman sound from her racket and, of course, the famous karate *ki-ai*, her trademark bisyllabic grunt.

The grunt made headlines and those with long memories will remember the gruntometer, a decibel counter that, its users claimed, showed that her grunt was as loud as a jumbo jet on take-off. And this girl, for girl she was then, with the ultimately brutal tennis game, went all sensitive about it and lost a Wimbledon final that she should have won by trying not to grunt.

Her chance would quickly come again, we thought, but it did not, for, traumatised by the stabbing, she vanished from the game. This year, it seems, her chance has at last arrived.

Her old nemesis, Steffi Graf, love-object of the deluded Parche, is not playing at Wimbledon, for she has a poorly knee. The No 1 seed, Martina Hingis, is only 16, unused to grass and made a poor showing in her opening match on Tuesday. The title is there for the taking.

You feel that life owes Seles a Wimbledon title. She has the power. The whacking double-fister on both wings was hit yesterday with laser-beam directness. The wrists still break decisively and late, which gives her extraordinary qualities of disguise. She has the force, but the knife did not affect her strength, it affected her will. The swagger, the simple-hearted relish in destruction, have gone.

It was the cruellest thing to happen. Few people in sport have managed so completely to give the impression of the happy idiot. No one spoke greater gibberish at greater speed, a breathless monologue about socks and suntan and forehands and jewellery and Madonna and jeans and sneakers and backhands.

And being a star — I have never seen anyone who loved being a star so much. She always reminded me of Janis Joplin's terrifying statement: "I love being a star more than life itself." Joplin, of course, is, or was, one of rock's eternal victims.

Yet Seles's heroine is Madonna and Madonna is, if nothing else, a survivor. Seles has at least set about following that as an example. A Wimbledon victory would be some kind of blow against the forces of madness. How much does Seles truly want it? Not more than life itself, that is for sure. Enough? We shall, if ever it stops raining, find out.

RESULTS FROM WIMBLEDON

Men's singles
Winner: £415,000
Runner-up: £207,500
Holder: R Krajicek (Holl)
First round
Tuesday's late results
B Black (Zim) bt P Cash (Aus) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4
A O'Brien (US) bt H Holm (Swe) 7-6, 6-4, 7-6
N Godwin (SA) bt H J Davids (Holl) 7-5, 7-6, 6-3
M Rosset (Switz) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 7-5, 6-7, 6-3
P KORDA (Cz) bt M Filippini (Uru) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-4
T Haas (Ger) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2
M R J Petchey (GB) bt J Kroslak (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1
C van Garsse (Bel) bt N Weal (GB) 6-1, 7-6, 7-6
M Gustafsson (Swe) bt V Spadea (US) 6-2, 6-1, 6-3
T A Woodbridge (Aus) bt M CHANG (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-2, 3-6, 8-6
M Lee (GB) bt N Marques (Por) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3

Women's singles
Winner: £373,500
Runner-up: £186,750
Holder: S Graf (Ger)
First round
M Seles bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-0, 6-2
Tuesday's late result
S Wang (Taiwan) bt L M McNeil (US) 6-1, 2-6, 7-5

☐ HAVING lost most of yesterday's play due to rain, today's matches will start an hour earlier than scheduled. The All England Club announced that play will commence at 11.0am on the outside courts, while matches on Centre Court and No 1 Court start at noon.

Recall for Wilkinson

CHRIS WILKINSON has been recalled to the Great Britain Davis Cup squad, two years after saying that he no longer wanted to play for his country if Greg Rusedski was also involved.

Wilkinson, who beat Jonas Bjorkman, the No 17 seed, on Tuesday to reach the second round at Wimbledon for the sixth consecutive year, will travel with the Britain team to Kiev for their clay-court clash with Ukraine that takes place just five days after the Wimbledon men's singles final.

Martin Lee, who also had a first-round success on Tuesday, when he beat Nuno Marques, of Portugal, is included in the six-man party, although neither he nor Wilkinson is likely to play in Kiev unless Tim Henman or Rusedski is injured.

Henman and Rusedski, who were both absent with injury when Britain lost 4-1 to Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace in April, return as the established top pair and they could even form the doubles combination for a match that Britain must win to avoid taking part in a Euro-Africa zone group one relegation match against Hungary in September.

DAVIS CUP TEAM: T Henman, G Rusedski, A Richardson, N Broad. On standby: C Wilkinson, M Lee

[illegible]

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to the point

call for Wilkinson

Bath face tough test in Europe

BATH have the hardest task of the English club representatives in the Heineken Cup next season. If they are to progress as far as they did last year — only to the quarter-final stage — they must battle past both Brive, the holders, and Pontypridd, the Welsh league champions.

The European competition has been expanded to include five pools and the prize money has been almost trebled, to £400,000. However, there are still two places to be filled. Cardiff and Llanelli should be taking up the two other Welsh club vacancies, but their ongoing dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union may mean that they are thrown out.

POOL MATCHES: Sept 6-7: Pool A: Leinster v Toulouse, Leicester v Milan. **Pool B:** Swansea v Wasps, Ulster v Glasgow. **Pool C:** Brive v Borders; Pontypridd v Bath. **Pool D:** Harlequins v Munster; Bourgoin v Wales 4. **Pool E:** Caledonia v Wales 3; Treviso v Pau. **Sept 13-14: Pool A:** Milan v Toulouse, Leinster v Leicester. **Pool B:** Glasgow v Wasps; Swansea v Ulster. **Pool C:** Bath v Borders; Brive v Pontypridd. **Pool D:** Wales 4 v Munster; Harlequins v Bourgoin. **Pool E:** Pau v Wales 3; Caledonia v Treviso. **Sept 20-21: Pool A:** Toulouse v Leicester; Milan v Leinster. **Pool B:** Wasps v Ulster; Glasgow v Swansea. **Pool C:** Borders v Pontypridd; Bath v Brive. **Pool D:** Munster v Bourgoin; Wales 4 v Harlequins. **Pool E:** Wales 3 v Treviso; Pau v Caledonia. **Sept 27-28: Pool A:** Toulouse v Milan; Leicester v Leinster. **Pool B:** Wasps v Glasgow; Ulster v Swansea. **Pool C:** Borders v Bath; Pontypridd v Brive. **Pool D:** Munster v Wales 4; Bourgoin v Harlequins. **Pool E:** Wales 3 v Pau; Treviso v Caledonia. **Oct 4-5: Pool A:** Leicester v Toulouse; Leinster v Milan. **Pool B:** Ulster v Wasps; Swansea v Glasgow. **Pool C:** Pontypridd v Borders; Brive v Bath. **Pool D:** Bourgoin v Munster; Harlequins v Wales 4. **Pool E:** Treviso v Wales 3; Caledonia v Pau. **Oct 11-12: Pool A:** Toulouse v Leinster; Milan v Leicester. **Pool B:** Wasps v Swansea; Glasgow v Ulster. **Pool C:** Borders v Brive; Bath v Pontypridd. **Pool D:** Munster v Harlequins; Wales 4 v Bourgoin. **Pool E:** Wales 3 v Caledonia; Pau v Treviso

RUGBY UNION: SYMBOLIC LION LIKELY TO EARN JUST REWARD WITH PLACE ON WING

Bentley setting new standards

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

ALEX LIVESEY

Bentley put his case for selection with a powerful all-round display against Free State

ONE of the easiest things that a sportsman can do is to assert, sometimes aggressively, that he is not just there to make up the numbers. In the case of the British Isles team in South Africa, where the numbers are even more plentiful than normal, it has become something of a credo. No member of the party accepts that he is consigned to the midweek XV — and of nobody has this proved more true than John Bentley.

Bentley has been one of the outstanding successes of this tour, proof positive that Fran Cotton was right to pluck him from the Newcastle wing and restore him to the representative limelight. It is not only Bentley's playing form, but also his entire demeanour that symbolises the nature of these Lions.

The mature, matter-of-fact stance that Bentley, a former policeman from Cleckheaton, has taken in public on issues fundamental to professional sportsmen has been totally admirable. If some of the younger Lions, particularly the English ones, learn from him, they will be better competitors, both mentally and physically, as Bentley, 30, demonstrated on Tuesday night, when he scored three tries in the exhilarating 52-30 demolition of Free State in Bloemfontein.

Earlier this month, Bentley was replaced during the game with Northern Transvaal — the only defeat that the Lions have suffered so far — and he felt the slight deeply. That was, after all, a Saturday fixture and, seven days earlier, he had scored two tries in the win over Western Province. In the process, he underwent a much-publicised spat with James Small, the South Africa wing, who accused Bentley of poking a finger in his eye in a tackle and then refused to exchange handshakes at the game's end.

In South Africa's perception, Bentley had "out-psyched" the excitable Small and made himself a leading contender for international selection, but instead it was Alan Tait, another former rugby league player, who played in the contentious left-wing position during the international last Saturday in Cape Town.

Now, however, Bentley's chance may have come, though not in the way that he would have wished. The Lions selectors will name today their XV to play South Africa in the second international here on Saturday and the groin injury suffered by Ieuan Evans will create a vacancy on the right wing, Bentley's favoured side. Had he been fit, Evans would certainly have played, but he is unlikely to take any further part on this tour.

Bentley would have wished to win his place on merit, but he also knows — none better, after nine gruelling years in rugby league — that injuries offer good players opportunities.

The Lions management will not confirm Evans's situation until today, but, when that happens, the way will be open for Bentley to make not only the international appearance that he craves but also to confirm the possibility that next month, nine years after winning his only two England caps, he could add a third, against Australia in Sydney.

Bentley's willingness to take on opponents — to cut back inside because he knows that he does not have blistering finishing speed — may be regarded as a strength, now that his colleagues have learnt new patterns of play and the strengths and weaknesses of their colleagues.

Bentley has benefited from the outstanding support play of the multi-national back row of Rob Wainwright, Neil Back and Eric Miller, ball-players to a man, yet who may go home without playing against South Africa. "The way the players played at Bloemfontein, you have to adjust and review performance levels, but we would be stupid not to regard Saturday's first-test display as a template," Ian McGeechan, the coach, said.

"You always hope on a Lions tour that the squad plays better than they have ever done, that they will go back home better players and then you cannot argue against the Lions concept. We are in that pleasant position."

Such have been the standards achieved, however, and such the camaraderie that few of the party will consider their tour to have been a failure should they not appear in the internationals.

Injuries excepted, Miller rated serious discussion for the No 8 berth held by Tim Rodber when the selectors chose their XV last night. His swift hands, as well as his explosive speed, are set against Rodber's greater experience and strength in the tackle, but pace over the ground has been the key to the success of the 1997 Lions. Last week, in Cape Town, they played a more structured game, but, as McGeechan said, they seek to evolve week by week and the plan for Durban should differ. So, too, could the personnel.

Game in crisis reaches point of no return

Christopher Irvine counts the cost of British teams playing out of their league

The world club championship, a wonderful idea in principle, has wreaked so much havoc in such a short time that it is difficult to see where the repair work begins and ends for rugby league in Britain.

With more punishment inevitably to be meted out by the Australasian Super League (ASL) sides, the harm and embarrassment could deepen before the competition ends in October. After three sobering weeks, the game has stark alternatives — to bury its head back in the sand, or take the "no pain, no gain" route of meaningful change, in which case the world championship will have served a useful purpose.

The need for the Super League to be cut from 12 to ten, or even eight, clubs is self-evident. So, too, is cutting the dead wood from the overseas quota, in a reduction from six to two players, to reverse the neglect of home-produced talent. There needs to be a pyramid structure of development and an end to the pernicious promotion-relegation and transfer fee systems — root causes of clubs spending their way to oblivion.

Long-term success hinges on junior development, a scandalous failing in the festering dispute between the professional and amateur governing bodies.

This cannot continue — a proposed joint youth commission is a step forward — unless the sport is so complacent that it can shrug off the beatings by southern-hemisphere sides, retreat back to its own little world and pretend the whole thing never happened.

Retrenchment should not be a dirty word. London is a moderate success of the expansionist agenda and a foothold in the capital is important for the sport's profile, but building from a position of strength, in the game's heartlands, is where recovery can start. It cannot in Bristol, Leicester and Cardiff, where infrastructure is minimal.

Twenty-seven losses and three wins in the first series of matches — two of the victories at the expense of an ordinary Perth side — is damning enough evidence of the need for change. A few one-off wins were expected, particularly from Bradford Bulls and St Helens, who lost each of their three home matches. Seven of the ten Australasian sides posted club record scores, while Halifax Blue Sox suffered their heaviest loss — 76-0 at Brisbane — and Wigan Warriors came within two points at Canberra of their worst defeat.

If the post mortem does not make unpleasant enough reading, the crowd figures indicated a lack of public stomach, both here and in Australia, for a plethora of predictable outcomes. The reverse fixtures four weeks from now will require an extraordinarily hard sell and, above all, evidence that the European contingent stands a better chance.

'27 losses is evidence of the need for change'

John Ribot, one of the architects of rugby league's faded global vision, resigned yesterday as the Australasian Super League chief executive and hopes to head a new club franchise in Melbourne. This week will also see whether Maurice Lindsay, his British counterpart, jumps horses to become chairman of the Tote, leaving behind an onerous job of reform.

Ribot resigned as a charter for harmony between Rupert Murdoch's Super League and the Australian Rugby League (ARL) was announced yesterday. The ARL has resolved to work towards a single national competition by 1998.

Eventual reunification, after a season of division, would unleash again the full might of Australian talent under one umbrella — yet more bad news for European clubs.

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1 MAY	CITROEN FINANCE M STAFFORD 32 P STADNIK 32 · P RATCLIFFE 30 · G BYSON 28	MOOR ALLERTON	122
6 MAY	PEUGEOT FINANCE K ALLINSON 29 · B JOHNSON 25 · G ERLAND 25 · M HENSHAW 29	MOTTRAM HALL HOTEL	109
7 MAY	PEUGEOT FINANCE M OGLE 23 · K EVANS 32 · D PARKER 30 · G TURNER 33	TELFORD	118
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7 JUN	TULLETT & TOKYO FOREX INTERNATIONAL N PAGE 39 B BAKER 38 L MONCUR 38 B WYATT 34	CAMBRIDGESHIRE MOAT HOUSE	145
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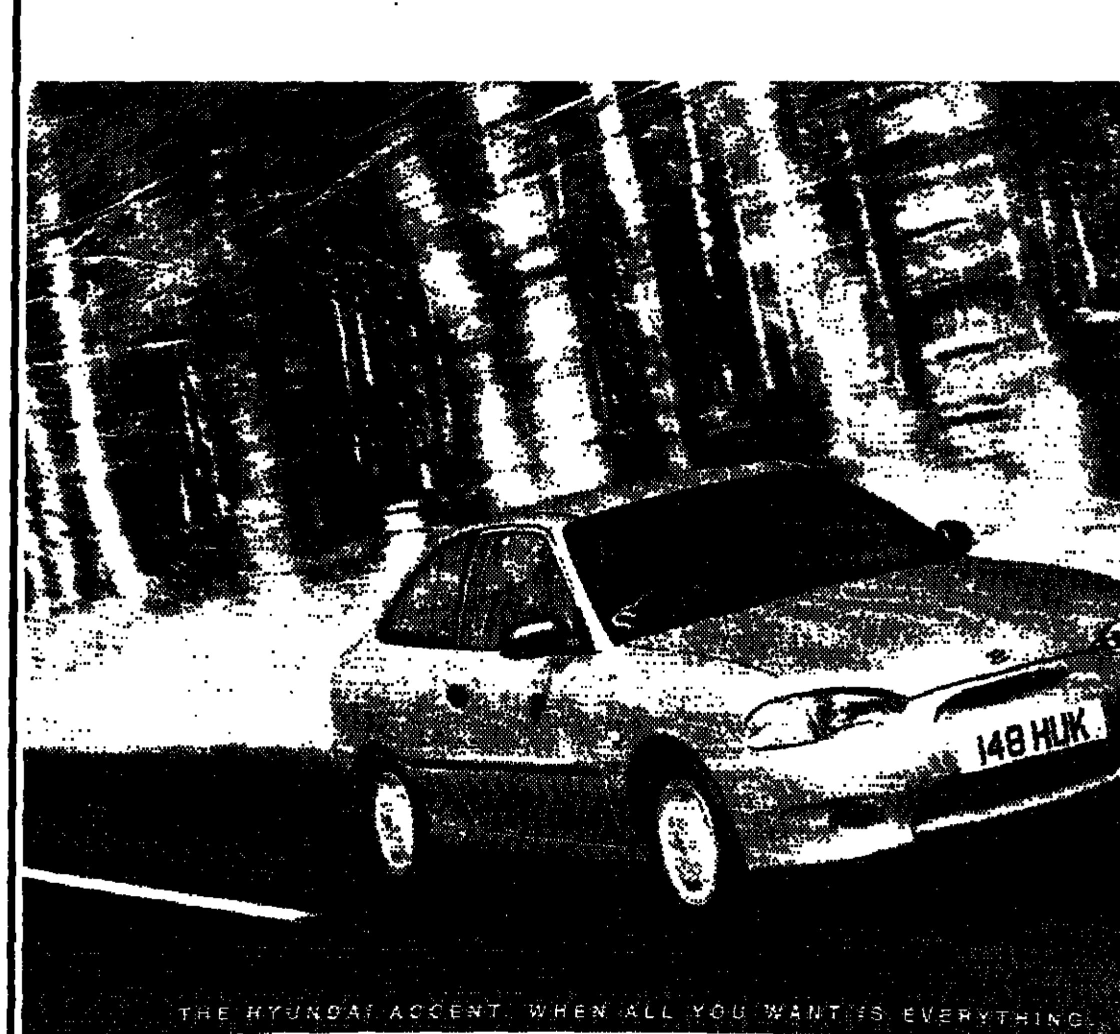

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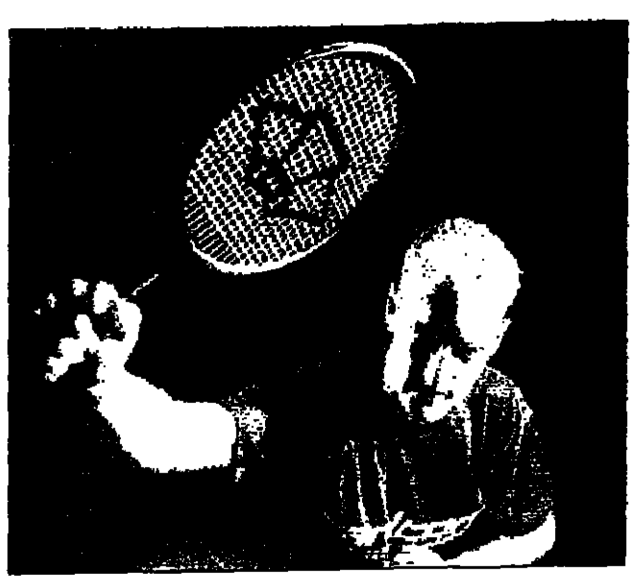
Time to rally round in defiance of science and disarm 'Scuds'



GILL ALLEN

Speed merchants: Philippoussis delivers another scorching serve, but even he is left trailing by Archer, the badminton player, top left, who has hit a shuttlecock at 162mph

Power play rushing tennis to break point

BRYANT'S EYE

The thump of scorching aces at Wimbledon is one of the traditional sounds of summer. So, increasingly, is the chorus of complaints that the high-speed servers are ripping tennis apart.

We have seen the graphite-armed, one-shot monsters reducing the game to a service shoot-out this week as Greg Rusedski and Mark Philippoussis, the two fastest servers in the business, thrashed aces down in a ground-shuddering display of power tennis.

Although the crowd went wild about Rusedski — and after all, in spite of his accent, he is British — there are many who know the sad truth: unless the game takes a serious look at slowing down a bit, it will surely smash its way into ever-increasing boredom.

Players today are noticeably stronger, bigger and more athletic than the champions of the past. They are sun-scorched giants with strange-sounding, central European names, who can smack out aces all day long. When you combine these specimens with rackets that make the wooden ones look prehistoric, you have a game that the languid Victorians, who devised tennis, would never recognise.

To many, tennis began to die with the disappearance of the wooden racket. The metal rackets that crept into the game in the 1960s have evolved into powerful graphite weapons, complete with shock and vibration-reducing handles and self-adjusting levels of stiffness.

Anyone who believes that the world-record 142.3mph service, which has earned Philippoussis the nickname "Scud", is the ultimate, should think again. In the past fortnight, as the Wimbledon players have warmed up, there has come a dire warning (and an implied challenge) from another racket sport about the ever advancing march of speed and technology.

Tennis, despite its Scuds, is not even the fastest racket sport around. That honour goes to badminton. The announcement came, not unexpectedly, from the equipment manufacturers, who, with an eye firmly on the commercial potential, boast happily of injecting more power and speed into their game.

Simon Archer, the British Olympic squad badminton player, smashed a shuttlecock at a recorded 162mph in a specially arranged game with Julian Robertson. Archer, the equipment manufacturer proudly reported, "plays with a Carlton Aerogear 900FX and used Aerogear 880 feather shuttles". Archer said: "I was confident I could break the tennis record, but I surprised myself by achieving speeds of over 160mph." Presumably, we can expect tennis to get out its radar guns and Dunlop to wind up its engineers to produce something that will match the speed of badminton.

Of course, you cannot stop the march of technology and those who hanker after a vanished golden age of wooden rackets and endless rallies should remember that the Victorians were only able to develop lawn tennis as a garden game because of breakthroughs in technology.

The first of these was the discovery in 1839 by Charles Goodyear of how to vulcanise rubber, which gave the game a ball that would bounce on grass. The second was the invention of the lawnmower. Without it, surfaces would have been unplayable.

While the surfaces and the balls have changed little, however, Wimbledon's historic collection of rackets in its museum is the evidence of how much the game has changed. Nostalgia for the days of the wooden racket is so strong that in the United States they even hold special tournaments where modern rackets are banned.

The Annual Woody Tournament of Cape Cod was started three summers ago and insists on all-white outfits and all-wood rackets. Others, who realise that living in the past is not a realistic option, have suggested slowing down tennis by making the courts bigger, restricting players to one service, or even making double faults cost two points. Such solutions sound unlikely, but more serious consideration should be given to the specifications of rackets and balls.

Restrictions have had to be imposed in other sports. Baseball banned the use of aluminium bats and in 1984, when Uwe Hohn, of East Germany, threatened the lives of spectators by hurling the javelin 104.80 metres, athletics officials gulped and changed the specification of the javelin to make it fall shorter.

Back in 1956, an imaginative Spaniard, Erausquin, emerged from obscurity at the age of 49 with a new way of throwing the javelin — discus style. He smashed the Spanish record and his technique was widely, if briefly, imitated before it was outlawed.

In tennis, it would be quite possible to place a limit on the length, width, circumference and stiffness of the rackets used for Wimbledon and other grass-court championships. It might put some badly-needed creativity and skill back into the game.

Similarly, there is a lot of variety in the balls used in tennis. Some are heavier than others, some have more felt and move more slowly. Wimbledon could try using a ball that is slightly heavier than usual or experiment with a little less air pressure.

The truth about tennis is that, in the future, the twin advances in physical strength and technology will have to be controlled if they are not to destroy the game. The court, the net and the rules are still exactly as the Victorian founding fathers determined that they should be, but the combination of modern rackets and the physique of players has torn the game from its gracious Victorian frame.

Each June, we have the terrifying prospect of even faster serves and fewer rallies. Somewhere above the unrelenting thud of the Scud must be heard the cries of those who weep for the game.

JOHN BRYANT

SAILING

Chill factor slows Edwards

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

TRACEY EDWARDS and her all-women crew on board the 92ft catamaran, *Royal & SunAlliance*, have been forced to mount 24-hour iceberg watches on the bow as the huge craft races eastwards at an average speed of 17.5 knots in an attempt to break the multihull transatlantic record.

After three days of sailing, Edwards has covered 1,264 miles, with only medium-strength wind assistance, since setting off from New York on Sunday. This has left her slightly under the pace set by the record-holder for the trip, Serge Madec, of France, who completed the crossing in *Jet Services V* in just over six days and 13 hours. Yesterday, Edwards disclosed that she had to slow the boat slightly on Tuesday evening because of icebergs and smaller growlers — lumps of ice — about 230 miles east south-east of St John's, Newfoundland.

She said that after each of the crew had completed a watch, the member then spent one hour on the bow looking for lumps of ice, some of which were too small to show up on radar.

"The safety of my boat and crew comes above all else and, as everyone knows, to beat a record, first you have to finish," Edwards said.

During the night, the women were on the bow in pairs, using night-vision glasses as the catamaran reached speeds of up to 27 knots. "The bow is not a pleasant place to be in freezing conditions with waves coming over you at regular intervals. Everyone is drenched to the skin," Edwards said.

According to Ed Danby, the project manager, the boat is standing up well to the rigours of the record attempt, apart from a leak in the centre-board casing in the galley that one of the crew, Lisa Charles, from Rhode Island, has managed to stem with a running repair.

He said lighter airs yesterday should be replaced by stronger conditions today, which will help to speed Edwards on towards the finish line off the Lizard Point on the southern coast of Cornwall.

In order to break the record, *Royal & SunAlliance* needs to cross the line before 12.30am on Sunday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

ABRIN

(b) A highly poisonous proteid contained in the jequirity bean (*Abrus precatorius*). "Messrs Warden and Waddell published in Calcutta during the present year a large number of observations on the jequirity poison. They have proved that the active principle is a proteid — *albrin* — closely allied to native albumen."

FLOBERT

(c) A cartridge and a breech-loading rifle. Eponyms of N. *Flobert*, the French armourer (1819-94). "The Flobert cartridge is notable as being an evolution of the percussion cap."

COVENTRATE

(b) To bomb intensively. To devastate sections of (a city) by concentrated bombing, such as that inflicted on Coventry in November 1940. The first of the German "Baedeker" raids of mass destruction on touristy but not strategic cities. From the German *coventrieren*. "German bombers made prolonged mass attacks on Coventry. And they invented the verb 'to coventrate' to describe the indiscriminate mass murder of civilians."

CHIPPEWA

(b) A member of an Algonquian Indian people found in the Great Lakes region. A by-form of *Ojibwa*. "The guttural ejaculations of the Chippewas who came to her door."

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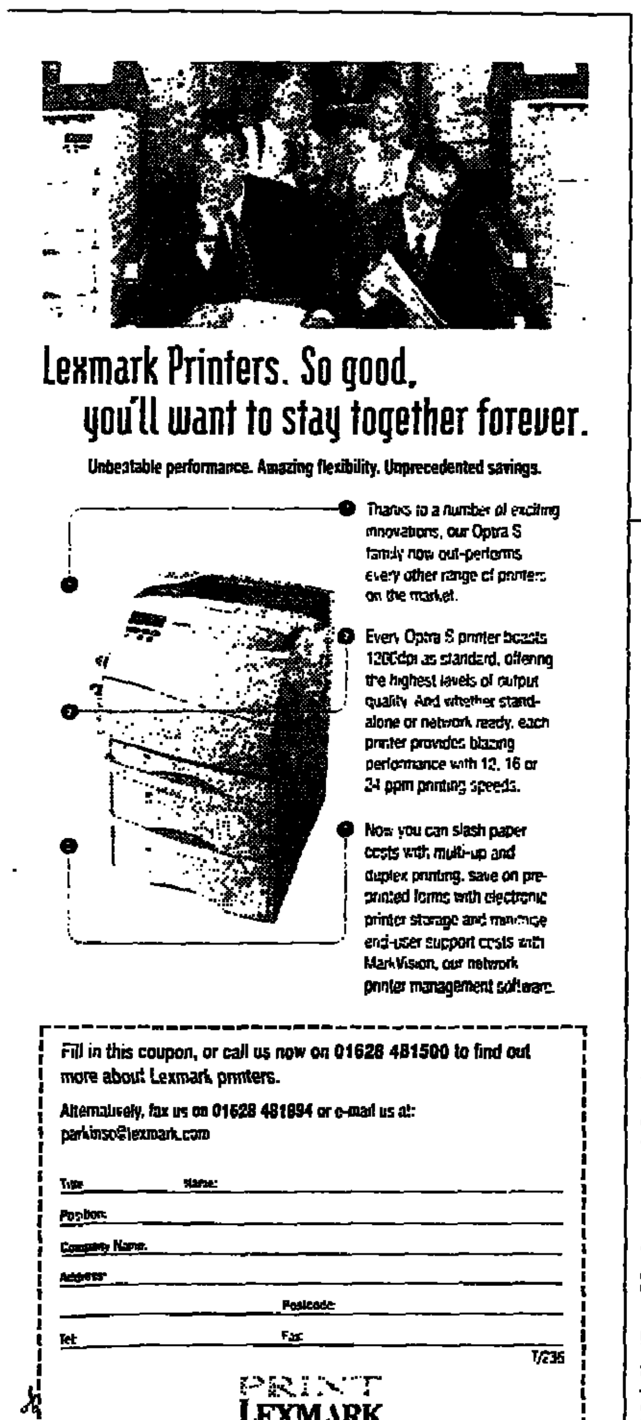

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TELEVISION CHOICE

A crusading success

Watchdog: Value For Money
BBC1, 7pm

The BBC clearly perceives it has a winner with the *Watchdog* formula, for as one spin-off, *Weekend Watchdog*, leaves the schedules, another one returns. *Weekend Watchdog* got its knuckles rapped recently over coverage of allegedly dodgy holidays but no complaints have attached to *Watchdog*'s shopping programme, presented as before by Vanessa Feltz and Chris Choi. Tonight's programme is nothing if not packed. Katrina, the Eurovision Song Contest victor, asks whether market stall clothes can compete with the designer label look. Garth Crooks and Scorpio from *Gladiators* look at sports footwear and Anne McKevitt of *Home Front* considers how far improvements add value to a house. Choi's item, which seems to have strayed in from another show, is about making money out of comedy.

Health Alert
Channel 4, 8pm

We have heard it enough times, that heart disease is the main killer of men in Britain. We know that it tends to be brought on by bad habits such as smoking and lack of exercise. But Shahnaz Pakravan's report, rounding off an informative series, suggests that the propaganda is not hitting home. Peter, who is 46, has been admitted to hospital with a heart attack. Perhaps it is no wonder because he weighs 18 stone, smokes and takes no regular exercise. With a young family he is determined to mend his ways. The film follows him through a rehabilitation programme and his attempts to forgo cigarettes and fry-ups. Women are even less fit than men. One survey found that only two in ten do enough exercise. We meet a research scientist who says he can get them to change their ways.

Fishers of Galilee
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The Sea of Galilee provides rich material for the wildlife film-maker and Malcolm Penny's splendidly-photographed documentary does not disappoint. Much of the time Penny is content to remind us of the unchanging rituals, from fishing methods that have not changed since the time of Jesus to the seasonal interaction of birdlife and the fish that provide much of their food. But just as you marvel at footage of birds mating and chicks hatching, Penny brings his theme right into the late 20th century. To sustain the wildlife, human fishing of the lake is strictly controlled but increasing numbers of holidaymakers are disturbing the birds. Pollution is a hazard and so is a drop in the water level caused by summer evaporation and low rainfall. Moreover, the lake provides Israel with nearly half of its drinking water as well as irrigating large areas of desert.

Vanessa Feltz at large (BBC1, 7pm)

We Are Not Alone: Alien Hunters
ITV, 10.40pm (Scotland and Ireland 11pm)

Yet another documentary about UFOs and close encounters with the alien kind, but this time we hear less about sightings of strange things in the sky and more about scientific efforts to establish that there is life beyond our planet. Not that the evidence is any more conclusive. But at least science is coming up with the right tools. The Hubble space telescope may one day bring certainty where much has been speculation and when the chief scientist on the Hubble project says that finding life out there is inevitable, we must take notice. But the film still relies on material of the non-scientific kind, such as photographs of a supposed humanoid alien taken by a couple in Arizona. And the last words belong not to scientists but to Raymond Massey and are taken from the science fiction film *Things to Come*. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Female Ghost
Radio 4, 10am (FM only)

I am not entirely clear why a new series of ghost stories should have to be angled towards women, but I had better be careful what I say or my words could come back to haunt me. My own recollection of ghost stories is that they all seem to focus on women in one way or another, either using a female ghost or having a wide-eyed "helpless female" archetype at the centre of the story. But *The Female Ghost* promises something more sophisticated, not least because all four stories in the series are by women writers. The first is Mary Braddon's *The Cold Embrace*, which deals with the consequences of infidelity. All four stories in the series have been dramatised by Christopher Hawes and the director is Marion Nancarrow.

Another String
Radio 4, 8.45pm

This series about the secondary interests of people famous in another field is proving a great success and tonight's is a particularly good example. Nick Darke is a prolific playwright whose work is performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company and at the National Theatre but he is also a fisherman, not least because wealth and the playwright are mostly strangers. Darke has a small boat on the north coast of Cornwall and he puts to sea, year round, not just to make money but also because the sea is in the blood: he was born in the house where he now lives with his family. Darke uses the Cornish names for the coves along the coast, believing that unless tradition is exercised it will die. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Glastonbury 97 Live **8.30** Movie Update **8.40** Glastonbury/John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Carl Cox **4.00am** Dave Pearce

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** David Allan's Country Club **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Dionne Warwick — The Celebrity Soul Show **9.30** The What If Show **10.00** Shelley (6/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **1.30pm** Wimbledon 97 Coverage of day four **8.00** David Gower's Cricket Weekly Includes coverage of the day-night game at the Oval between Surrey and Nottinghamshire **9.00** Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours with Vincent Hanna **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp Includes Update USA

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.15** World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Composer of the Month **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Turning a Tune **9.30** Hot New Country **10.05** Business **10.15** Dying Notes **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Discovery **12.30pm** Born a Girl **12.45** F.O.O.C. **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain **1.30** Record News **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Wimbledon **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** Turning a Tune **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain **6.05** Business **6.15** World Today **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** Assignment **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** John Peel **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain **10.30** Meridian Books **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Vintage Chart Show **1.30** Turning a Tune **1.45** Britain **2.30** The Works **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Haydn (Keyboard Sonata No 38 in F major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Includes Rossini (The Barber of Seville, Overture), Brian Easdale (The Red Shoes Ballet), Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A minor); Mussorgsky (A Night on the Bare Mountain) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r).

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast in Hong Kong **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Bruch (String Quintet in A minor); Copland (Appalachian Spring), Scarlatti (Sonata in D); Haydn (Symphony No 50 in C), Weber (Overture: Abu Hassan); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, Inextinguishable)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Arriaga (Overture: The Happy Slaves); Sibelius (Incidental music, Kuolema): Ernst (Variations on The Last Rose of Summer); Prokofiev (Suite, Lieutenant Kije)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Andrew Lyle. Includes Honegger (Pacific 231); Eisler (An die Kleinen Radioapparat): Weill (String Quartet No 1), Sting (The Secret Marriage); Stephen Montague (Snakebite); Gade (Elverskud, part 3), Webern (Passacaglia, Op 1), Bach, orch Webern (Ricercar a 6, Musical Offering, BWV1079); Bach (Motet: Singet dem Herrn); Berg (Die Nachtigall, Traumgekrönt; Liebesode; Sommertage)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Paris 1750
1.00pm Vintage Verdi. Pierluigi Petrobelli, director of Italy's National Institute of Verdi Studies, plays a selection from the institute's collection of Verdi on disc and talks to Piers Burton-Page about the performances
2.00 To Johannes Brahms. Featuring music by Brahms and works dedicated to him by his friends and admirers. Gould Trio: Lucy Gould, violin, Martin Storey, cello, Gretel Dowdeswell, piano. Robert Fuchs (Piano Trio in C, Op 22), Brahms (Piano Trio in B, Op 8)
3.15 Ulster Orchestra, under Andrew Mogrelia. Dvořák (Legend in G minor, Op 59 No 3), Bax (Summer Music), Fibich (Symphony No 1 in F)
4.15 Ensemble, with Penny Gore. Viv McLean, piano. Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C minor, Op 13, Pathetique); Chopin (Polonaise-Fantasy in A flat, Op 61); Ravel (Sonatine) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.15 In Tune, with Humphrey Carpenter. Live from the Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh. The Brindisi Quartet. Schubert (Impromptu in F minor, D935, No 1) **6.15** Imogen Cooper, piano. Brahms (String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No 2)
7.30 London Symphony Orchestra, under Colin Davis. Radu Lupu, piano, Helleví Martinpelto, soprano, Karl Magnus Fredriksson, baritone, London Symphony Chorus. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491) **8.05** Layton on Kullervo. Robert Layton discusses the background to the Kullervo Symphony **8.20** Concert, part two. Sibelius (Kullervo Symphony)
9.50 Give a Dog a Bad Name. David Owen Norris defends the musical reputation of Antonio Salieri, once described as "the man who murdered Mozart" (3/4)
10.00 Music Restored. Andrew Manze introduces a concert by the Revolutionary Drawing Room. Mendelssohn (Teenage Octet in E flat, Op 20)
10.45 Night Waves. Tony Palmer reviews *A Book of Memories*, the latest novel from the Hungarian writer Peter Nadas
11.30 Composer of the Week: Paul Patterson (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Campbell Burnap introduces more highlights from the 1997 EBU Jazz Festival
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Choral Evensong from Llandaff Cathedral (r) **2.00** Moscow Quartet. Strauss (Piano Quartet, Op 13); Nuno Leal (To Mahler); Eduard Napravnik (Piano Quartet in A minor, Op 42) **3.30** Zoltan Kocsis, piano. Bartok (For Children, Book 4) **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

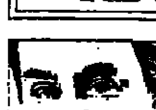
5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite (r)
9.30 Relatively Speaking. Esther Rantzen and her mother, Katherine, talk about their personal relationship (3/4)
10.00 News; The Female Ghost (FM). See Choice. With Stephanie Turner and Jonathan Firth
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes an interview with the actress Polly James
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm The Heritage Quiz. In the second of six programmes, Sue MacGregor invites Christopher Cook, Roisin MacAuley, Philippa Gregory and Martin Wainwright to test their knowledge of Britain's cultural heritage
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: The Bounty Hunter, by Tanika Gupta. The Bounty Hunter rounds up runaway Asian women and delivers them back to their homes, regardless of their domestic circumstances. With Rehan Sheikh and Riz Abbasi
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews Jean Genet's play *The Maids*, with Niamh Cusack and Kerry Fox, and looks at a book of photography that captures the essence of canal life
4.45 Short Story: Breaking Eggs, by Penelope Feeny. Read by Susan Cockson
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Taking It Up the Octave. The third of a five-part comedy drama by Finlan Coyle and Tom Miles. Funding at Opera Sunderland is at crisis point and a hard choice has to be made. With Caz Weller and Simon Butteriss
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Lifestory. In the second of six radio biographies in which the private life of a public face is revealed, Jon Turney recalls the life of the outstanding chemist Linus Pauling. With contributions from the Nobel Prizewinners M F. Perutz and M H.F. Wilkins
8.00 Analysis. Frances Cairncross examines the potential benefits and costs of monetary union
8.45 Another String. See Choice
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Monkey King, by Timothy Mo. Read by David Yip (4/10)
11.00 Fun-Filled Days of Harriet Knight. The last of a four-part comedy series by Carol Noble. With Emma Chambers and Jane Whittenshaw
11.30 Ad Lib (FM). In the first programme in a six-part series about people's interests, Robert Robinson meets a group of domino players (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW). A roundup of the day's events in Westminster
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Il Postino by Antonio Skarmeta. Read by David Rintoul (4/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service.

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الاصل

Carol peels off in the interests of science

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

As Carol Vorderman's new gizmo show **Hot Gadgets** (BBC1) reminds you, some technological breakthroughs leave you in awe of man's ingenuity. Who would have believed that, in the space of just a few years, scientists would have been able to prove that it really *is* possible to put Carol Vorderman on every television channel simultaneously?

Having injected her brains-and-bust combo into Channel 4's *Countdown*, BBC1's midweek *National Lottery* programme, BBC2's *Computers Don't Bite* and, only last week, ITV's *Testing ... Testing*, Vorderman will presumably be hosting a pseudo-science show on Channel 5 as soon as she has enough spare time to paint fuzzy lines across her face to match the current Channel 5 cosmetic livery.

"Welcome to *Hot Gudgets*," gushed the ex-*Tomorrow's World* presenter, firing the words like Exocets through her portcullis of white teeth, "the new show which tests the world's fabbest gadgets and gizmos. Whether they get you fit, save you time or they're just for fun, there's no gadget *too* big or *too* small, *too* cheap or *too* flashy for us. We *love* gadgets."

To give viewers a flavour of what to expect, Carol was waving a shark-shaped cookie jar at us: it plays *Jaws*-style music when you open it. Stops greedy people raiding the biscuit rations. Throughout this scene and, in fact, most of the show, Vorderman was grinning continuously but nervously. Either she had just swallowed *some state-of-the-art drugs*, or she felt embarrassed about descending from *Tomorrow's World* to *Tomorrow's Abandoned Christmas Present*. She had the air of someone handling the whole thing with a pair of tongs, which only stood out so much because she is usually such a polished presenter.

To expand a show with three minutes' worth of content to a half-hour slot, a studio audience delivers its verdict on each gadget by responding to Carol's new catchphrase bark of "Is it hot, or is it not?". There are also three gadget testers. They have no specialist scientific skills and appear to be just like any other inquisitive, open-minded members of the general public, apart from the fact that they are willing to behave like orang-utans whenever requested by the director.

When one tester, James, a *Birmingham student*, rode a motorised scooter around campus, he reported that "it's certainly turning heads". Yes, James. That's because the other students were wondering: "Hey, who's the wally?"

Other new gadgets tested were the *Kitchen Assistant* (essentially a £200 electronic recipe book), a £3,500 massage chair (which has actually been on the market for *several years), and a hand-held* global positioning system, a sort of *A-to-Z* for people who cannot read simple maps or are too shy to ask passers-by for directions.

Each week (five more to come) we get to peek into the home of a gizmo-crazy "celebrity". This week it was the magician Paul Daniels. His trove of gadgets included one of those umbrellas that come with a headband instead of a handle, and which you wear like a hat. "You look steeyoopid," squeaked Paul chirpily, "but you don't get wet." This is not such a problem for Paul Daniels as it is for most people, because he looks steeyoopid even when not wearing his hat-umbrella.

The weirdest moment came when Vorderman was unveiling her mystery "old gadget of the week". The audience was given a chance to guess what it was for, but failed. It was a sort of lathe with a blade attached. It turned out *to be an apple peeler: by turning* a handle, it began to take off the apple peel in one continuous half-inch coil, which Ms Vorderman then pulled tenderly and held out for all to admire. The weird bit is that this elongated fruit-peel image is identical to the one used by Durex (only with a phallically extended orange peel instead of an apple) to advertise its orange-flavoured condoms. Well, viewers — is this saucy view of Carol Vorderman hot, or is it not?

In **Firefighters** (BBC1), Liverpool's Red Watch crew were fed up because they were not hot *enough*. They keep missing the big action. "You've been working all day," moaned one member over an after-work pint, "and you've been going to false alarms, absolutely nothing, calls from kids in phone boxes. You knock off at six o'clock and you hear on the news at seven that someone's got a big *job — well, that's frustrating*." These are good men, so they must feel awkward knowing that the quieter their workload, the happier everyone around them must be.

Doreen Earl's wellbeing is also at odds with that of her community. Doreen's idea of a fun gizmo is an excavator, which she needs to expand her quarry in the Peak District. This does not please all her neighbours. It is the newcomers who object. The locals regard quarrying as a legitimate local activity stretching back centuries. **Quarry Queen**, the latest in BBC2's three-week *United Kingdom!* season of snapshots from around the country, offered a glimpse of how hostility between neighbours in idyllic countryside can run deeper than a coal seam.

Why cannot Doreen's misty-eyed neighbours understand that hers is an ancient rural trade, and if that means ruining their view of those hills, that's tough? "At the *moment*," *Doreen sighs*, "*we seem* to be a nation of complainers."

Like any good snapshot, *Quarry Queen* shows you a scene, but it is left up to you to look closely and make what you will of what you can see on the horizon. Scenery-wise, I see a hill on a horizon and I can take it or leave it. A picture of Carol Vorderman peeling fruit — now *that's* what I call a view.

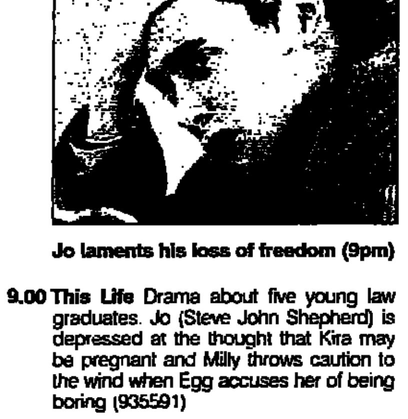
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (44591)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (65)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5235268)
9.20 Cheggers' Challenge Keith's makeover masters transform a bathroom (3147152)
9.45 Kilroy (9608539)
10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (83369)
11.00 News (T) (2752201)
11.05 Real Rooms Simon Biagi and the team get to work on a bedroom in a respite care home, transforming it completely so that it can be used by children with special needs (7669201)
11.30 The Great Escape (1688)
12.00 News (T) **Regional News** and weather (1229626)
12.05pm Call My Bluff Alan Coren and Sandi Toksvig lead the teams in the obscure words quiz (5421930)
12.35 Neighbours (4292046)
1.00 One O'Clock News (35572)
1.30 Regional News (15356317)
1.40 Wimbledon 97 Further coverage from the second round of the singles competitions at the All England Club, introduced by Desmond Lynam. John Barrett heads the commentary team (99696930)
4.10 Plasmo (6809133) **4.15** The New Yogi Bear Show (6808404) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5072046) **4.35** Return to Jupiter (6587626)
5.00 Newsround (8209539)
5.10 The Biz (7959442)
5.35 Neighbours Romance is in the air for Ruth and Phil (r) (543775)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (201)
6.30 Regional News (881)
7.00 CHOICE **Watchdog: Value for Money** Vanessa Feltz finds out whether expensive home improvements really make a difference to a house's value (3688)
7.30 EastEnders It is the day of Walford's big athletic challenge (715)
8.00 Crime Beat Martyn Lewis examines schools' efforts to improve security since the massacre at Dunblane and the murder of head teacher Philip Lawrence (2336)
8.30 Airport It is crisis management every day, but the Heathrow staff try to keep smiling when an Aeroflot flight is grounded (4171)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (3423)
9.30 The Jasper Carrott Trial (104220)
10.35 The Temp (1993) with Lara Flynn Boyle FILM and Timothy Hutton. Boyle embarks on a campaign of murder and intimidation to win a high-powered position inside a bakery company. Directed by Tom Holland (8591607)
12.05am The Winchester Conspiracy (1990) FILM Starring Gerald Kennedy, Terry Gill, Frankie J. Holden and Roderick Williams. Fact-based drama about a secret operation mounted by the Australian federal and New South Wales police forces and the mafia to grow and distribute $14 million worth of marijuana. Directed by Ken Cameron (2175927)
1.35 Weather (6387640)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: The Mammalian Kidney (3823978) **6.25** Scaling the Salt Barrier (3835713) **6.50** Designs for Living (7836442) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (1545423)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (6460317) **7.55** Blue Peter (2652978) **8.20** Charlie Chalk (3269305) **8.35** The Record (2202794)
9.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon (74220) **10.00** Teletubbies (29423) **10.30** Face to Face. Paul Eddington (1696268) **11.10** Fay Presto Illusions of Grandeur (3804442) **11.50** Johnson and Friends (6439201)
12.00 Wimbledon 97 Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker present action from the fourth afternoon in SW19. Weather permitting, both the men's and women's singles should now be approaching the conclusion of the second-round stage. The commentating team includes John Barrett, John Alexander, Chris Bailey, Pat Cash and Mark Cox. Includes **3.00pm** and **3.55** News regional news and weather (3544881)
8.28 UK Image (408404)
8.30 Tracks Offbeat guide to the countryside Ray Mears rustles up a feast on the beach and Pete McCarthy examines the history of the anorak (2713)



Jo laments his loss of freedom (9pm)

9.00 This Life Drama about five young law graduates. Jo (Steve John Shepherd) is depressed at the thought that Kira may be pregnant and Milly throws caution to the wind when Egg accuses her of being boring (935591)
9.40 Today at Wimbledon Second-round highlights from the All England Club, plus the rest of the news from day four in SW19. With Sue Barker (436171)
10.33 Video Nation Hong Kong Shorts (324930)
10.35 Newsnight (897688)
11.20 Awaking the Bells Composer Tan Dun records his new work *Symphony 1997*, to celebrate the reunification of Hong Kong with China. With the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (430065)
11.50 Video Nation Hong Kong Shorts (453201)
12.00 The Midnight Hour Late-night political discussion about issues raised in Parliament (92992)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Clayoquot Sound — the Final Cut? (79553)
1.00 Healthy Futures: Whose Views Count? (62850)
1.30 Yes, We Never Say No (50669)
2.00 FETV: Communications and the Media (69485)
4.00 Languages: Teaching Languages (12737)
5.00 The Small Business Programme/20 Steps to Better Management (30973)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (9007355)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (3155171)
9.55 Regional News (T) (4849404)
10.00 The Time, the Place (23249)
10.30 This Morning (T) (65293084)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (1218510)
12.30 News (T) and weather (4211171)
12.55 A Country Practice (4296862)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (90499133)
1.50 It's a Vet's Life (r) (T) (31860688)
2.20 Winnetka Road (T) (5873084)
3.20 News (T) (3471268)
3.25 Regional News (T) (3470539)
3.30 The Riddlers (r) (3281626) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (6813336) **3.50** Rupert and the Jolly Roger **4.15** Transylvania Pet Shop (T) **4.40** Matt's Millions (T)
5.10 Shortland Street (8196336)
5.40 News (T) and weather (719881)
6.00 Home and Away Rebecca offers Travis a shoulder to cry on (560978)
6.25 Central News (578997)
6.55 Lifeline (424997)
7.00 Emmerdale (1084)
7.30 3-D Presenter Julia Somerville follows six couples as they attend a weekend marriage guidance course (T) (133)
8.00 The Bill: Rent When a young busker is hit by a car, at first it looks like an accident. Unfortunately, Boyden and Keane's inquiries lead them up some frustrating blind alleys (T) (7404)

Sam knocks down a boy (8.30pm)

8.30 Bliss: A Far Cry Louise returns from university for a test to see whether she is likely to develop the disease which killed her mother. Bliss knocks down a boy who ran out in front of his car, but his attempts to make amends are thwarted by the youngster's strangely uncooperative mother (11572)
10.00 News (T) and weather (85688)
10.30 Regional News (T) and weather (755733)
10.40 Crimestoppers Special (175978)
11.15 CHOICE **We Are Not Alone: Alien Hunters** The second of two programmes about the possibility of the existence of alien life searches for proof that we are not alone in the Universe (T) (641510)
12.15 Wacky Weekly World News (8057534)
12.40 In Bed with MeDinner (9641058)
1.10 Funny Business (1306737)
1.40 Cyber Cafe (1952553)
2.10 Late and Loud (6189669)
3.05 3-D (37285350)
3.35 The Good Sex Guide Late (9058447)
4.30 The Time, the Place (21669)
5.00 Garden Calendar (69331)
5.30 News (97447)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4296862)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8196336)
6.25 Central News (578997)
10.40 We Are Not Alone (363046)
11.40 New York News (742152)
12.45am Funny Business (92534)
1.15 Planet Rock Profiles (99447)
1.45 Club Nation (8186824)
2.40 The Loop (2196669)
3.05 Late and Loud (1285973)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (3216244)
5.20 Asian Eye (4992805)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (5415959)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (23765046)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8196336)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (12220)
10.40 We Are Not Alone (363046)
11.40 New York News (222510)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8196336)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (997)
6.29 Pollen Count (446959)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (249)
10.29 Pollen Count (695959)
10.40 We Are Not Alone (363046)
11.40 Star Wars Trilogy: The Magic and the Mystery (222510)

ANGLIA

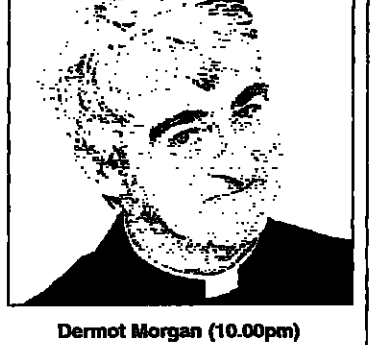
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4296862)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8196336)
6.25 Anglia News (578997)
10.40 We Are Not Alone (363046)
11.40 The Road Show (222268)
12.10am Short Story Cinema (8454602)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (37201)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58423)
9.00 Bewitched (95065)
9.30 Film: About Mrs Leslie (62861688)
11.25 Boogie Doodle (1284317)
11.30 Springhill (7626)
12.00 House to House (75201)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (35171)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (10907607)
1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac (10995862)
1.30 Film: Little Old New York (45076249)
3.20 Gustav Looks for a Job (3453862)
3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (355)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (862)
4.30 Absolutely Animals (666)
5.00 5 Pump *(9862)*
5.30 Countdown (626)
6.00 Newyddion (184607)
6.05 Heno (571084)
6.35 Jac yn y Bocs (453249)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (681355)
7.25 Sgrin Ti Syniad? (956442)
8.00 Pobl y Chyff (5046)
8.30 Newyddion (7881)
9.00 The Jewel in the Crown (3775)
10.00 Film: The Last Seduction (43252572)
12.05am Riding the Tiger (3421244)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (37201) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (58423) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (95065)
9.30 About Mrs Leslie (1954) with Shirley FILM Booth and Robert Ryan. Drama about a Beverly Hills boarding-house owner who recalls her wartime affair with a married man. Directed by Daniel Mann (62861688)
11.25 Boogie Doodle A Norman McLaren abstract (1284317) **11.30** Australia Wild (7626) **12.00** House to House (75201) **12.30pm** Caroline in the City (r) (T) (35171) **1.00** Springhill (T) (51510) **1.30** Ginger Nutt (15363607)
1.45 The Farmer's Daughter (1947, b/w) FILM starring Loretta Young as a farm girl from Minnesota who ends up in Congress. Directed by H.C Potter (T) (58214607)
3.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Cookery series (T) (355)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (862)
4.30 Countdown (T) (6571065)
4.55 Ricki Lake Overweight people seek advice on getting fit (T) (5756133)
5.30 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (626)
6.00 Boy Meets World Rites of passage comedy. Corrie realises he has made a stupid mistake (T) (539)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap. Tony regrets choosing a church wedding (T) (591)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) Includes headlines and weather at **7.30** (322336)
7.50 Dicky Hearts (357046)
8.00 CHOICE **Health Alert** Shahnaz Pakravan explores heart disease. Last in the series (T) (5046)
8.30 CHOICE **Fishers of Galilee** The threat to the delicate ecosystem of the biblical lake (T) (7881)
9.00 The Sextuplet Business A look at three families who have had sextuplets and the effect that the multiple births had on their lives. The show traces the initial elation that eventually gives way to financial hardship (r) (3775)



Dermot Morgan (10.00pm)

10.00 Father Ted The priests go on their annual holiday to the Kilkelly Caravan Park (r) (T) (197930)
10.35 Northern Exposure Offbeat comedy set in Alaska. Phil discovers Little Italy right in the middle of town (T) (374152)
11.30 Weekly Planet In Hong Kong, Jon Snow chairs a discussion on its future under Chinese rule (19539)
1.00am Bunny Lake Is Missing (1965, b/w) FILM Thriller about a policeman investigating the disappearance of a single mother's four-year-old daughter. With Laurence Olivier and Carol Lynley. Directed by Otto Preminger (49553)
3.00 Memento Professor George Steiner talks to Joan Bakewell (r) (T) (11282)
3.30 Schools (r) (T) (775379)
5.25 Backdate (r) (T) (3236814)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7755733)
7.30 Havakazoo (3947591) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8156591) **8.30** WideWorld (8155862)
9.00 Espresso (6199238) **10.00** Exclusive! (r) (1059959) **10.30** The Great Garden Game (r) (T) (8175626)
11.00 Leeza (1389794) **11.50** Double Espresso (44668411) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8166978) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (6464779)
1.00 5 News Update (T) (52324997) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (9223133) **2.00** 5's Company (8870133)

Tom Courtenay as Billy (3.30pm)

3.30 Billy Liar (1963, b/w) with Tom FILM Courtenay, Julie Christie and Wilfred Pickles. Wry comedy about an idle young man who retreats into his own fantasy world. Directed by John Schlesinger (T) (1754794)
5.20 5's Company — Late Extra (99342046)
5.30 100 Per Cent Quiz show without a host (7641713)
6.00 Whittle (T) (7648626)
6.30 Family Affairs Elsa moves in with the rest of the Hart family (T) (7639978)
7.00 Exclusive! Entertainment news with Jonothan Coleman, Julia Bradbury and Jason Roberts (6795713)
7.30 Natural Natives: Trail of Peter Rabbit Wildlife documentary about the rabbit population of Great Britain (T) (7628862)
8.00 Nancy Lam: Seaside Special The oriental cook prepares a cucumber salad with seaweed, deep-fried squid and a vegetarian dish called hokkien mee (T) (6771133)
8.30 5 News (T) (6790268)
9.00 The Prince of Bel Air (1986) with Mark FILM Harmon, Kirstie Alley and Robert Vaughn. Comedy about a lusty bachelor who cleans the pools and seduces the female residents of Bel Air. Directed by Charles Braverman (99970539)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (6946369)
11.35 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy panel game with Graham Norton, Fred Macauley and Lee Hurst (r) (6716539)
12.05am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine hosted by Dominik Diamond. Includes Major League soccer from America (42214331)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3935640)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9149553)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (619959) **9.00** Regis & Kathie Lee (14862) **10.00** Another World (93510) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (90046) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (76442) **1.00pm** Geraldo (52862) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (48572) **3.00** Jenny Jones (69888) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (71423) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (6171) **6.00** Real TV (6881) **6.30** Married with Children (7133) **7.00** Simpsons (4572) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3317) **8.00** Third Rock from the Sun (3220) **8.30** The Nanny (2355) **9.00** Seinfeld (77607) **9.30** Mad About You (77171) **10.00** Chicago Hope (14826) **11.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (95369) **12.00** Lucy Show (32534) **12.30am** LAPD (26485) **1.00** Hit Mix (1084973)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4418423) **7.30** Superboy (8915423) **8.00** Sliders (6685317) **9.00** Highlander (6698881) **10.00** Tak War (6608268) **11.00** Late Show with Letterman (7933794) **12.00** Hit Mix (2172350)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Aviator (1985) (38167620) **7.45 Martha and Ethel (1995)** (716423) **9.15 Little Giants (1994)** (379201) **11.15** The Wrong Box (1966) (399065) **1.15pm Season of Change (1994)** (15719323) **3.00 Send Me No Flowers (1964)** (73775) **5.00 Ice Castles (1979)** (43625) **7.00 Little Giants (1994)** (90423) **9.00 Higher Learning (1995)** (32357244) **11.10 To Die For (1995)** (823794) **1.00am Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers (1995)** (19089) **2.30 Petulia (1968)** (407805) **4.20 Send Me No Flowers (1964)** (331242)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.20am 3:10 to Yuma (1957) (54528336) **8.00 Carnival in Costa Rica (1947)** (83523268) **9.40 Abraham Valley (1994)** (39789107) **12.45pm Sons and Lovers (1960)** (52469012) **2.30 Woman of Straw (1964)** (89672) **4.30 Robotix: The Movie (1993)** (77834626) **6.05 Grizzly Adams and the Treasure of the Bear (1995)** (83850268) **7.40 US Top 10** (463046) **8.00 It Came from Outer Space II (1996)** (91423) **9.30 The Movie Show** (60881) **10.00 Casino (1995)** (87869355) **12.55am A Woman Scorned (1993)** (387060) **2.45 Three Tough Guys (1974)** (150485) **4.20 Grizzly Adams and the Treasure of the Bear (1995)** (131224)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm September Affair (1950) (9494958) **8.00 Children of a Lesser God (1986)** (9499404) **10.00 Once Upon a Time in the West (1968)** (54962084) **12.50am The Last Detail (1973)** (4181447) **2.35 Dracula: Prince of Darkness (1965)** (3034832) **4.10-5.50 September Affair (1950)** (8123783)

TNT

9.00pm Crazy in Love (1992) (39851220) **11.00 The Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins (1971)** (26753881) **1.00am Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1932)** (90538466) **2.45-5.00 Voices (1979)** (19470737)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (10201) **7.30** Wrestling (62404) **8.30** Racing News (43065) **9.00** Sports Centre (34317) **9.30** Aerobics (78249) **10.00** European Tour Magazine (14751) **10.30** Golf: French Open Live (53268) **12.30pm** World of Super League (36591) **2.30** Inside the PGA Tour (3978) **3.00** Golf: French Open Live (26881) **4.59** Sports Centre (7143355) **5.00** Cricket: Surrey v Northants Live (4452572) **10.30** Sports Centre (42012) **11.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (17133) **12.30am** Countdown to Judgement Night II (31331) **1.00** Golf: French Open (82195) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (77466)

SKY SPORTS 2

9.00pm Golf: US Senior Open — Live (1030133) **12.00** Golf: Inside the PGA Tour (1250621) **12.30am-1.00** Grand Prix Sailing (8244398) **1.00** Close (7232689)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Countdown to Judgement Night II (63194065) **12.30pm** Beach Soccer (95134423) **1.30** The Pavilion End (95135152) **2.30** Australian Rules Football (34974733) **4.30** Powerboat and Jetski World (41825423) **5.00** Wrestling (63712404) **6.00** Sports Centre (41813688) **6.30** Countdown to Judgement Night II (41837268) **7.00** Motorsport. Formula Three (39874171) **8.00** Tight Lines (39850591) **9.00** Spanish Football (76244305) **10.30-11.30** Gaelic Games (88743775)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf: Women's Evian Masters (57572) **8.30** Cycling: Tour of Switzerland (12775) **9.30** Football: World Youth (56716355) **11.15** Football: World Youth Live (45276626) **1.00pm** Motorcycling: Dutch Grand Prix Practice Session (318423) **3.30** Cycling: Tour of Switzerland (3591) **4.00** Cycling: Tour of Catalunya Live (2626) **4.30** Olympic Games Magazine (1510) **5.00** Motorcycling: Dutch Grand Prix Practice Session (98065) **6.30** Sumo (94355) **7.30** Basketball: Men's European Live (24684) **9.00** Football: World Youth (37591) **10.00** Motorcycling: Dutch Grand Prix Practice Session (47978) **11.00** Sailing: World Championships (12794) **11.30** ATP Tour Review (96133) **12.00-12.30am** Cycling: Tour of Switzerland (72176)

UK GOLD

7.00am Record Breakers (4411881) **7.35** Neighbours (9279030) **8.00** Crossroads (7595442) **8.25** EastEnders (2812978) **9.00** The Bill (5547171) **9.30** Spring and Autumn (5010220) **10.00** For the Love of Ada (2608336) **10.30** The Sullivans (5543355) **11.00** Casualty (89935713) **12.05pm** Crossroads (88441423) **12.30** Neighbours (5021336) **1.00** EastEnders (3182794) **1.35** No Place Like Home (2748688) **2.15** The Liver Birds (8678846) **2.50** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (6699317) **3.30** The Bill (2682201) **4.00** Boon (7072201) **5.00** Generation Game (81344881) **6.05** EastEnders (3707602) **6.40** Sykes (2479779) **7.20** Dr Who (3701930) **7.50** Only When I Laugh (5713978) **8.20** Hi-De-Hi (2989125) **9.00** The Bill (7001713) **9.30** Chancer (44142152) **10.35** Bottom (5275997) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (8051881) **11.45** Gold Goes Pop (6075794) **12.30am** It's a Knockout (2324843) **1.20** Big Deal (4231331) **2.20** Shopping (64153282)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (7179317) **7.00** Coronation St (4510171) **7.30** Families (4506978) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (3431688) **9.00** The Professionals (6352442) **10.00** Gentle Touch (4595862) **11.00** London's Burning (4515626) **12.00** Coronation St (8711336) **12.30pm** Families (6805423) **1.00** Second Thoughts (4519442) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6804794). **2.00** Surprise, Surprise (8345591) **3.00** Gentle Touch (7159220) **4.00** The Professionals (7178355) **5.00** London's Burning (2037220) **6.00** Families (8069171) **6.30** Coronation St (8050423) **7.00** Gentle Touch (2408959) **8.00** The Professionals (2417607) **9.00** Coronation St (7174539) **9.30** The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club (6892959) **10.00-11.00** London's Burning (2490930)

Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone in *Casino* (Movie Channel, 10.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (9424794) **6.25** Quack Attack (9403201) **6.50** Bonkers (4435997) **7.15** Little Mermaid (6740510) **7.40** Aladdin (9550268) **8.05** Quack Pack (3092355) **8.30** Goof Troop (96171) **9.00** Care Bears (3835688) **9.25** Umbrella Tree (3847423) **9.50** Muppet Babies (6740775) **10.15** Groundling Marsh (1673713) **10.40** Sing Me a Story (8244171) **11.05** Poddington Peas (8146065) **11.10** Big Garage (8780959) **11.25** Pooh Corner (2578152) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (1117201) **12.20pm** Mouse Tracks (3411930) **12.45** Timon and Pumbaa (98013775) **1.00** Boy Meets World (82421084) **1.25** Bonkers (96965539) **1.50** Quack Pack (52712688) **2.15** Aladdin (89034959) **2.40** Care Bears (9831404) **3.00** Little Mermaid (2725297) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9940684) **3.40** Goof Troop (2365959) **4.30** Chooseday (9794) **5.00** Aladdin (7818404) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9741133) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (444065) **6.00** New Doug (7959) **6.30** Boy Meets World (1539) **7.00** Brotherly Love (5626) **7.30 FILM: Darby O'Gill and the Little People** (39030) **9.00** Dave's World (55423) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (12607)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (2251084) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (5649423) **7.00** Pizza Cats (7924046) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7936881) **8.00** Beetleborgs (9693404) **8.30** Crocadoo (9692775) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5651794) **9.20** Magic Box (5033826) **9.45** Dudley (9462775) **10.05** Rimba's Island (1089997) **10.25** Magic Box (9850423) **11.00** Jin Jin (9821607) **11.30** Pinocchio (9822336) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (9696591) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (77033794) **12.50** Power Rangers Zeo (77013930) **1.10** Beetleborgs (25645404) **1.30** Eek! (4858620) **2.00** Life with Louie (4414607) **2.30** Crocadoo (8994930) **3.00** Gadget Boy (4426442) **3.30** Eek! (8906775) **4.00** Life with Louie (8918510) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (8914794) **5.00** Beetleborgs (4405959) **5.30** Spiderman (8905046) **6.00** X Men (8902959) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps

TCC

6.00am Iznogoud (96404) **6.30** Dangermouse (27263) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (31591) **7.30** Where's Wally (50626) **8.00** Batman (77046) **8.30** Art Attack (76317) **9.00** Art Attack (90997) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (94201) **10.00** Gravedale High (24713) **10.30** Flash Gordon (89881) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (48133) **11.30** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (49862) **12.00** Gravedale High (70133) **12.30pm** Stunt Dawgs (32107) **1.00** Batman (30862) **1.30** Dangermouse (82648) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (7084) **2.30** Flash Gordon (2404) **3.00** Sonic (6591) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (4249) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (6084) **4.30-5.00** Art Attack (2268)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (41930) **6.30** Rocko (12171) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (41171) **7.30** Rugrats (37978) **8.00** Doug (42336) **8.30** Arthur (41607) **9.00** CBBC (32959) **9.30** CBBC (69591) **10.00** Wimzie's House (14733) **10.30** Babar (54171) **11.00** Magic School Bus (29189) **11.30** Victor and Maria etc (79648) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (45423) **12.30pm** Richard Scarry (70607) **1.00** CBBC (40442) **1.30** CBBC (79978) **2.00** Dr Seuss (6572) **2.30** Arthur (4220) **3.00** Alvin (5607) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (6065) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (5572) **4.30** Rugrats (4084) **5.00** Sister Sister (9132) **5.30** Kenan and Kel (5336) **6.00** Alex Mack (2249) **6.30-7.00** Doug (5201)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (5035539) **1.00pm** Madison (3888539) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5015775) **2.00** Hangtime (9967688) **2.30** California Dreams (2605152) **3.00** Byker Grove (9979423) **3.30** 9-2-5 (2617997) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2696404) **4.30** Hangtime (2692688) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (9981268) **5.30** California Dreams (2616268) **6.00** Byker Grove (2606881) **6.30** Madison (2697133) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (6085997)

BRAVO

8.00pm Twilight Zone (9970152) **8.30** Monsters (9986959) **9.00** Burning Zone (6074881) **10.00** Tour of Duty (6084268) **11.00 FILM: Bull Durham** (1700864) **1.00am** Burning Zone (8373114) **2.00** Tour of Duty (4353824) **3.00 FILM: The Inside Man** (2306805) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (7688) **8.00** E UK (6336) **8.30** Almost Perfect (8171) **9.00** Cheers (13423) **9.30** Cybill (83171) **10.00** Frasier (46152) **10.30** Monty Python (22572) **11.00** We Know Where You Live (130688) **11.25** Robin (495152) **11.30** Nightstand (15775) **12.30am** Sledgehammer! (39973) **1.00** Cheers (11737) **1.30** Cybill (34176) **2.00** E UK (56973) **2.30** We Know Where You Live (75008) **3.00** Frasier (91973) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (59060)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (3988485) **1.30** One Step Beyond (2771060) **2.00** Friday the 13th (8089756) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (2195824)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (5545713) **9.30** Garden Calendar (5018862) **10.00** Go Fishing (2606978) **10.30** Room Service (5541997) **11.00** Painted House (7089591) **11.30** This Old House (7080220) **12.00** Just for Starters (5532249) **12.30pm** Julia Child (5029978) **1.00** Graham Kerr (3884713) **1.30** Home Again (5028249) **2.00** Hometime (9963862) **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (2618626) **3.00** Our House (9982997) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2613171)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm High Five (2609978) **4.30** Roadshow (2698862) **5.00** Time Travellers (9987442) **5.30** Justice Files (2612442) **6.00** Crocodile Territory (5037997) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (9974978) **7.30** Disaster (2699591) **8.00** Danger Zone (6067591) **9.00** Top Marques (7009355) **9.30** Ultra Science (5032442) **10.00** Justice Files (6080442) **11.00** Classic Wheels (3861862) **12.00** First Flights (4871468) **12.30pm** Fields of Armour (7834485) **1.00** Disaster (2086282) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9500486)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Lord Mountbatten (7794713) **5.00** The Shakers (1957607) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3260881) **7.00-8.00** Biography John Paul Jones (9728171)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05am Cross Wits (3639084) **5.50** Family Fortunes (452084) **6.30** Catchphrase (623442) **7.05** Winner Takes All (486862) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (297065) **8.20** All Clued Up (339775) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (670220) **9.35** Sale of the Century (565959) **10.10** Treasure Hunt (746305) **11.20** Studs (776404) **12.00** Winner Takes All (23824) **12.30pm** Hart to Hart (78621) **1.30** Moonlighting (60486) **2.30** African Skies (13282) **3.00** My Two Dads (62485) **3.30** Teen Win, Lose or Draw (19794) **4.00** Fall Guy (10331) **5.00** Shopping (46195)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (25612249) **9.05** A Woman Called Smith (1453539) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (3855030) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4704442) **10.55** Shopping Emporium (41766591) **11.00** Young and Restless (9772862) **11.50** Brookside (5229626) **12.25pm** Why Me? (35309591) **12.55** Tempest (7230775) **1.40** Rolonda (2623249) **2.30** Agony Experience (5602591) **3.00** Live at Three (67193404) **4.05** Jerry Springer (8244442) **5.05** Lingo (52215220) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (5613607) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (9168572) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (4111607) **7.05** Hearts Afire (4045881) **7.35** Brookside (2071997) **8.05** Rolonda (4890266) **9.00 FILM: Necessity** (83252143) **10.50** Shopping Emporium (5256688) **10.55** Sex Life (6601046) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life (2539442)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Presents **8.00** Raahat **8.25** Ek Nazar **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Janm Daata **9.30** Vijina Chamke Motera **10.00** Ajnabi **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM: Hum Hai Kamal Ke** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Dada Dadi Ki Kahani **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.25** Ek Nazar **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Euro Zindagi **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Andaz **9.05** Jaal **9.30** Hasretain **10.00** Yaadon Ki Baarat **10.30** Peoples Club **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RACING 44
Tote caught in middle of a Whitehall farce

SPORT

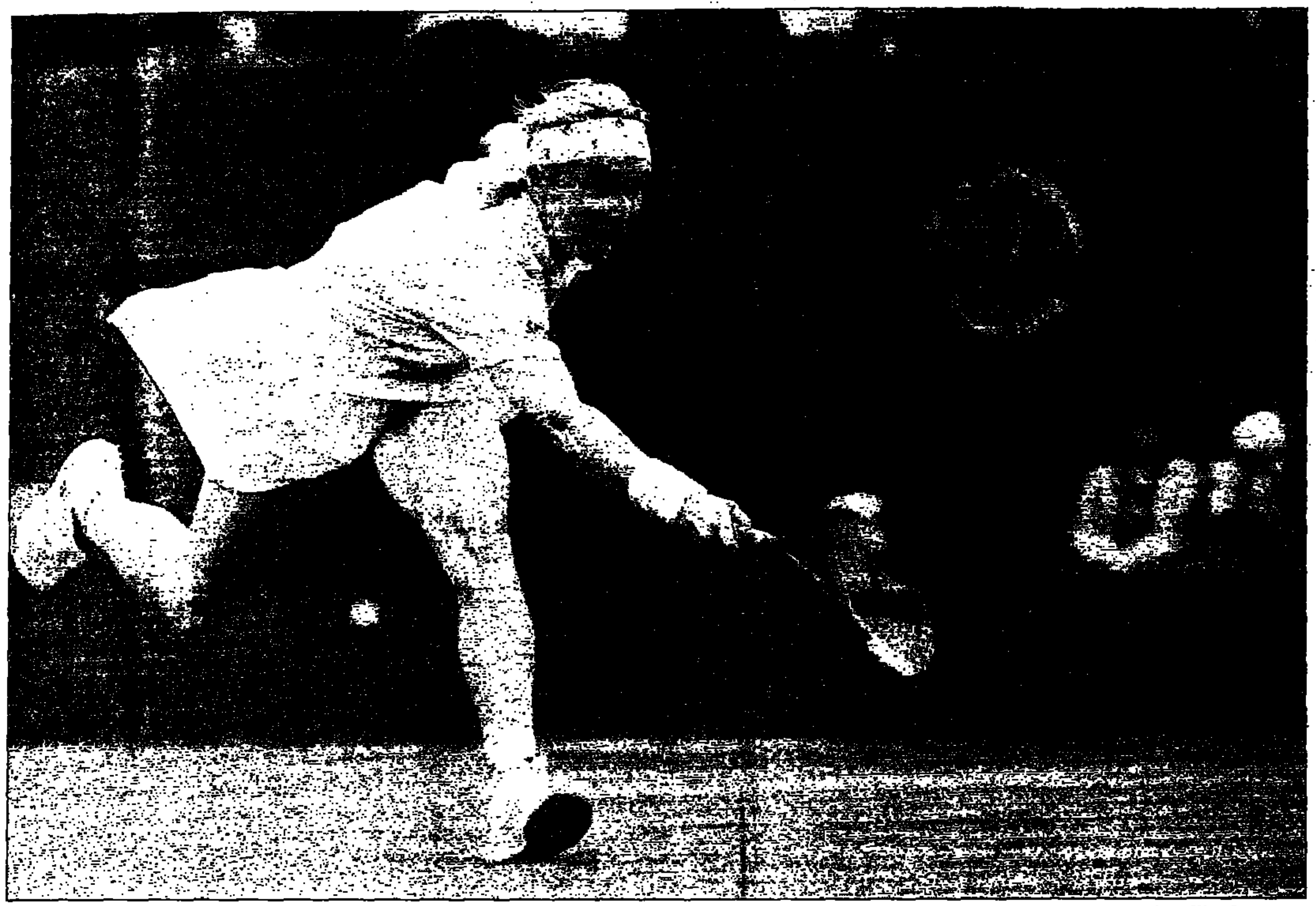
BOXING 45
Tyson comes out fighting in Las Vegas

THURSDAY JUNE 26 1997

Davis Cup place is reward for latest burgeoning British talent

Lee joins revival movement

BY JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT



Jana Novotna stretches for a backhand return in her first-round match against Wiltrud Probst, of Germany, last night. Photograph: Gill Allen

WITH one notable exception, June has bestowed on Martin Lee an experience that youngsters of recent vintage would have stapled to the front of their scrapbooks. If this is indeed the highight of Lee's tennis career, his passing would leave egg on the faces of some of the nation's astute judges. The evidence is mounting: Lee's advance to the second round at Wimbledon was followed yesterday by his elevation to the Davis Cup team to play Ukraine in Kiev next month.

Over the past decade, the odd British comet has been sighted on the Wimbledon skyline but Lee, 19, has more distant horizons. Last year he headed the world junior rankings for four months before joining the senior tour.

He started the year ranked No 618 in the world, took a couple of worthwhile scalps at Queen's recently, advanced to No 335 on Monday and promptly dispatched Nuño Marques, the world No 128, in straight sets on Tuesday. Yesterday, as he waited in the rain to take on the Frenchman, Arnaud Clement, Lee was summoned to the Great Britain team in preference to five players rated above him.

Although Lee, from Worthing, is among six Britons to clear the first hurdle at Wimbledon, he is the youngest and therefore harbours the most promise. Moreover, he is the first graduate from the fledgling Rover Junior Tennis Initiative to make an impact. He offers encouragement that the initiative is working. For decades, Britain has lamented the fleeting impact of its players worldwide. Lee arrives at a time when the domestic game has finally cast the framework of a cohesive structure within which to develop his talents.

David Lloyd, captain of the British Davis Cup team, has vociferously criticised this particular aspect of British tennis. Little assistance has been granted to the nation's juniors on their graduation, a treacherous passage where success depends as much on support and guidance as inherent ability. "It has happened a lot of times before," Lloyd said. "Andrew Castle and Chris Bailey have done well at Wimbledon, but failed to break through.

"There were not enough high-quality coaches. It's better now, but we still have a long way to go. When these kids are travelling the world, you've got to invest in a team of first-class, highly-paid coaches and motivators. They aren't cheap and I still don't think we have enough of them."

Lee still has plenty to learn. He is only a year younger than Mark Philippoussis, the Australian ranked No 13 in the world, and it is folly to expect him to sustain the rapid progress of recent weeks. Yet Lloyd is patently among Lee's growing band of admirers. "At Queen's just over two weeks ago, I told him privately that he would be coming to Kiev with the team," Lloyd said. "When I played Davis Cup, we always used to take a bag boy for experience, but Martin has maybe played his way into contention."

Lee has his own full-time coach in Ian Barclay, who guided Pat Cash to his Wimbledon triumph ten years ago. Barclay assumed responsibility for Lee when the latter was selected to join the Rover Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) School at Bisham Abbey. Men such as Barclay, whose experience bestrides all levels of the game, have long guided the tennis careers of the youth of other countries. The LTA's ambivalence towards effective youth development policies marks an unfortunate chapter in its history — although according to Richard Lewis, head of national training at the LTA, none of its recent pupils graduated with Lee's junior pedigree.

Lloyd warned that Lee's priority in the wake of Wimbledon will be to make an impression elsewhere in the world. "We must not be complacent," he said. "Martin has been winning on grass, which is our surface and one no others are used to. The true test will come six months after Wimbledon. The LTA and its coaches have got to take the core and make it grow outside of Britain."

Lewis, himself a former top 60 player, said that the LTA fell way behind in the development stakes on account of a lack of funding. However, aided, from 1980, by Wimbledon's successful commercialisation, the LTA has embarked on a long-term development programme, from which Lee — fortunately for him and to the frustration of his peers — stands to benefit.

Lewis admits that much remains to be done. The LTA is six years into a greatly increased financial commitment to the sport, but Lewis concedes that much remains to be done. He cites the example of France, twice Davis Cup-winners this decade, as the ideal model after a considerable investment two decades ago. Lewis maintains it takes that long for grass-roots projects to reach fruition.

"Obviously, we have kept a close eye on Martin Lee and it has been no great surprise to see him do well of late," Lewis said. "It has probably accelerated his development. He is now a mature young man. We feel he has the ability to become a [world] top 50 player, but it would be dangerous to speculate beyond that. It is very much down to the individual player."

Even if he reaches that goal, it will take Lee at least three years at the normal rate of progress for one of his age. There are a multitude of hazards, not the least of which is injury. What entitles the nation's tennis followers to be optimistic, however, is that Lee will not lack for guidance, as have those before him.

Lynne Truss 48
Simon Barnes 48
Haunting spectre 48

Lions shorn by sudden loss of Evans

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

THE British Isles will have to take the loss of players in the build-up to a rugby union international as a good omen. Injury removed Robert Howley before the successful first meeting with South Africa last week and, yesterday, a damaged groin muscle ensured that Ieuan Evans will take no further part in the tour.

Coming on top of the loss of Will Greenwood, with concussion, in Bloemfontein 24 hours earlier, it is a body blow that the touring party would have wished to avoid three days before the second international at King's Park here on Saturday. Even reports of confusion within the Springboks, who will field two newcomers in a revised three-quarter line, will have been little consolation for the loss of Evans, at 33 and with 71 Wales caps the most experienced player in the squad.

"I have been playing well and now my tour has been shot down in flames," Evans said. He felt a twinge during the game in Cape Town on Saturday, but tore the muscle when he twisted in training yesterday. His absence, which could pave the way for John Bentley, of Newcastle, ends a run of seven successive internationals as the Lions' right wing — three in Australia in 1989, three in New Zealand four years later and last week against South Africa.

Evans, a candidate for the captaincy of the Lions earlier this year, has revelled in the hard grounds and in the scope offered him by colleagues imbued with the desire to play running rugby, but now he is likely to need four weeks' rest before he can resume training for a new season with Llanelli.

Though only three games remain, the management will debate replacements for Evans and Greenwood, the Leicester centre having rejoined them after spending a night in hospital. His head hit the ground after a heavy tackle during the 52-30 win over Free State and he was unconscious for several minutes. He also dislocated a shoulder, though he will not require an operation.

Greenwood will probably return home early next week, following the melancholy steps of Paul Grayson, Doddie Weir, Scott Quinnell and Howley, and has been advised to rest for two months, which would prevent him starting the new Allied Dunbar Premiership season in August. Among the candidates to become Lions at this late stage will be Rob Henderson, the Wasps centre, and Adedayo Adebayo, the Bath wing.

It is no exaggeration to say that any combination of Greenwood, Jeremy Guscott, Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman (now that Alan Tait has moved to the wing) would serve the Lions handsomely in midfield. These are riches that South Africa, apparently, do not possess, since they have kept Andre Snyman, a centre by trade, on the wing, splitting him from Danie van Schalkwyk, his regular partner at Northern Transvaal, who comes in for the injured Edrich Lubbe.

The other centre will be Percival Montgomery, who played against the Lions at stand-off half for Western Province last month, while the other newcomer is his provincial colleague, Pieter Rossouw, on the wing. Montgomery, who will share the goal-kicking duties with Henry Honiball, fills the substantial shoes of Japie Mulder and Rossouw those of James Small, while there remains no place for Hennie le Roux in the squad.

According to Carel du Plessis, the South Africa coach, the World Cup veteran is suffering from a nagging groin injury and is therefore not available; but it is reported that le Roux has played with the injury for the past two years and that the motivation (not on the part of du Plessis) for his omission is political because of his rôle in players' pay negotiations in Transvaal two years ago.

SOUTH AFRICA: A J Joubert (Natal); A H Snyman (Northern Transvaal), P Montgomery (Western Province), D van Schalkwyk (Northern Transvaal), P Rossouw (Western Province); H W Honiball (Natal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal). J P du Randt (Free State), A E Drotske (Free State), A C Garvey (Natal), R J Kruger (Northern Transvaal), J J Strydom (Gauteng), M G Andrews (Natal), A G Venter (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain). Replacements: R G Bennett (Border), B Wessels (Griqualand West), W Swanepoel (Free State), F J van Heerden (Western Province), J Dalton (Gauteng), D F Theron (Griqualand West)

Symbolic Lion 49
Heineken Cup draw 49

Forecast prompts early start

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT WAS not Wimbledon's worst day ever for weather — whole days have been lost to rain, most recently in 1992 — but that was scant consolation to spectators who waited for play to start six hours late, only to see a maximum of 13 games before rain interrupted proceedings just before 7 o'clock.

Those on Centre Court saw Monica Seles fail to capitalise on a match point at 5-2 in the second set against Rachel McQuillan before the covers came back on, but they were the lucky ones — only a single game was possible on No 2 Court between Mary Pierce and Dominique Van Roost, while matches on three outside courts did not start at all. After a 38-minute break, Seles, the No 2 seed, returned briefly to complete a 6-0, 6-2 victory over her Australian opponent.

Play today starts at 11am on the outside courts and at midday on Centre Court and No 1 Court. The backlog has not yet reached critical proportions, according to Alan Mills, the tournament referee. "We can take another day or two of this," he said. "If the worst comes to the worst, we can play doubles matches over three sets and start at 11am until we catch up."

Unfortunately, another day or two of this is exactly what London SW19 can expect: the weather forecast today predicts a mostly cloudy, wet day.

Wimbledon was extended onto the middle Sunday in 1991, when only 52 matches had been played by Friday night. Spectators were allowed to pay on the day and the show courts were filled by enthusiasts who revelled in the unaccustomed opportunity provided by the removal of ticketing restrictions, creating a carnival atmosphere.

Piper suspended after drugs test

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

KEITH PIPER, a wicket-keeper who has been on the fringe of the England Test side after two A-team tours, was yesterday suspended by Warwickshire for failing a drugs test. He will miss the Britannic Assurance county championship match at Leicester that starts today and has also been fined £500, the equivalent of a week's wages.

The drug involved is cannabis, which is not on the Sports Council's list of banned substances and is not thought to enhance playing performance. It remains, however, unacceptable within professional sport and Warwickshire, with the approval of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), have taken admirably swift action.

The paradox of the affair is that Warwickshire had, without warning, conducted compulsory tests on their entire playing staff on Monday with a view to countering rumour and scandal from threatened newspaper revelations by their former player, Paul Smith, who has recently admitted in print to a cocaine habit.

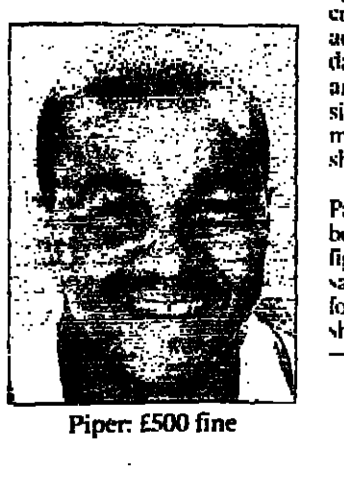
Instead of this, they uncovered another culprit. Piper, 27, becomes the third cricketer in the past year to be suspended for drug offences and all three are linked with Warwickshire. The most notorious case, also involving cocaine, concerned Ed Giddins, who was subsequently dismissed by Sussex and is being paid a retainer by Warwickshire before joining them when his ban expires next season.

Giddins and Piper were team-mates on the England A tour of Pakistan two winters ago, but both have now harmed their prospects of Test cricket. While Giddins is spending the summer playing club cricket and having occasional nets at Edgbaston, Piper was told yesterday to take a short break and avoid speaking to the media. He has already missed the NatWest Trophy tie with Norfolk, during which he was meeting county officials, but may be considered for the Axa Life League game at Leicester on Sunday.

Warwickshire have acted far more humanely than Sussex, in similar circumstances, by offering their player counselling. Dennis Amiss, the chief executive, confirmed that Piper has also been asked for a written undertaking that he will not transgress again. "If there is any repeat, the committee would obviously take a far more serious view," Amiss said.

Amiss added that the testing programme, carried out by the club's own doctors, was in direct response to the murky confessions of Smith, who left the playing staff at the end of the 1996 season. Having agreed to play Minor Counties cricket for Shropshire, Smith accepted money from a Sunday newspaper for his drugs-and-sex revelations and has since been banned for 22 months and had his Shropshire contract cancelled.

"After the publicity for the Paul Smith case, we wanted to be seen to be pro-active in the fight against drugs," Amiss said. "We want a clean image for the game and for Warwickshire."



Piper: £500 fine

Moody move, page 46
Line and Length, page 46
ITC details, page 47

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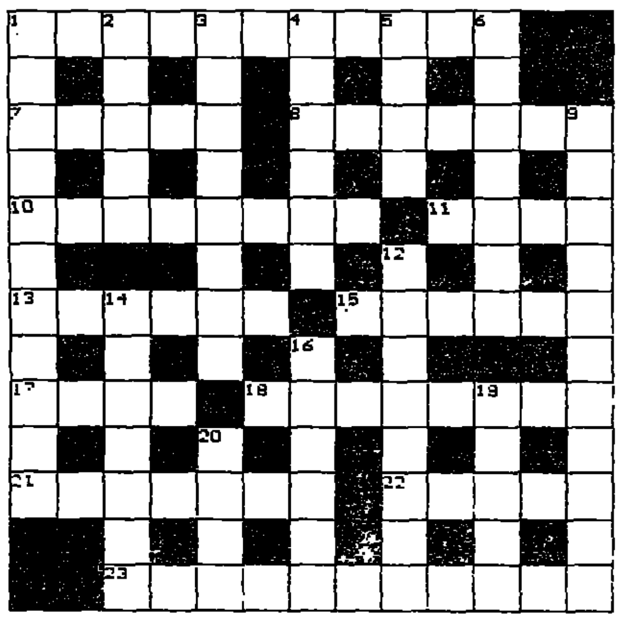

ACROSS
1 French C16 astrologer, prophet (11)
7 Stoppers; advertisements (5)
8 Not deep (7)
10 Aristocrats (8)
11 Look closely; one of 10 (4)
13 Physical well-being (6)
15 Praying insect (6)
17 Cheat (of payment) (4)
18 Plain, esp. cloth (8)
21 Beloved (7)
22 Steam bath (5)
23 Fish, shocks prey (8,3)

DOWN
1 Prevent in early stages (3,2,3,3)
2 A firework; lampoon (5)
3 Family inc. Dante, Christina (8)
4 Scatter, banish (6)
5 Honey wine; lea (4)
6 Conspicuous; jutting defensive line (7)
9 Despite any imperfections (5,3,3)
12 Glide behind motorboat (5-3)
14 Uncaptured (2,5)
16 Fail to remember (6)
19 One excessively modest (5)
20 Fish; spearhead on pole (4)

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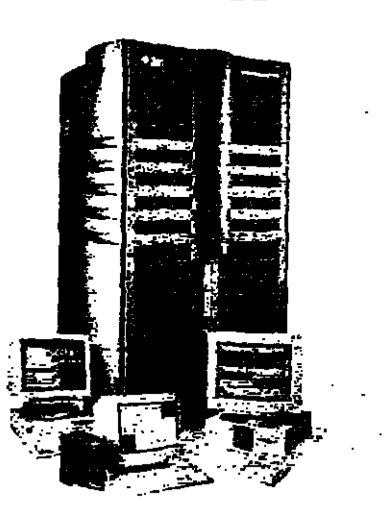
Name/Address ....

SOLUTION TO NO 1129
ACROSS: 1 Kowtow 5 Fame 8 Ivan 9 Lorraine 10 Ravenous 11 Gore 12 Hearth 14 Author 16 Waif 18 Wycliffe 20 Largesse 21 Yank 22 Mere 23 Relief
DOWN: 2 Obviate 3 Tense 4 Will-o'-the-wisp 5 Fraught 6 Minor 7 Crystal clear 13 Refugee 15 Offence 17 Abate 19 Idyll

MORSE

Fat.



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